



Vol. 6, No. 10 401

May 24, 1959

# HOSPITAL STRIKE

The strike conducted by the RWDSU's Local 1199 at six New York hospitals began on Friday, May 8. It was nearly two weeks old when this photo was taken. During that time, more than 3,000 miserably exploited workers became veteran unionists in a very fine training school—the picket line. They rejected a phony management offer; they defied threats of eviction, court injunctions, even the very real prospect of jail sentences.

The admiration and support of the entire labor movement of New York have been won by the hospital strikers' courage and determination. Those qualities are mirrored in the photo at right, which shows Lucy Cruz, 9½, and her sister Evelyn, 10½, joining their mother, Maria, on the Mt. Sinai Hospital picket line. For more news and photos of the hospital strike, see Pages 3, 4 and 5.



Record Photo by Tony Karp



# RWDSU General Council Meets In New York City June 9 to 11

NEW YORK CITY—A three-day meeting of the General Council of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union will open at the Park Sheraton Hotel here on Tuesday, June 9. It will be the first annual meeting for the Council members who were elected at the International convention in Chicago last June.

The Council sessions will be preceded by a one-day meeting of the International Executive Board on Monday, June 8. The Board will act on the proposed Council agenda and make final plans for the annual session of the RWDSU's top policy-making body.

In addition to comprehensive reports by the International officers and field staff on organizing, collective bargaining and other "bread-and-butter" functions of the union, the General Council will act on plans for a new educational program and an intensified political action campaign.

Slated for an important place on the agenda are reports and discussion on the RWDSU-Histadrut Campaign. The sessions will be chaired by Pres. Max Greenberg.

## Special Session at UN

An unusual feature of this year's Council meeting will be a special session which will take place at the United Nations. Through the cooperation of Bill Kemsley, director of the New York office of the Int'l Confederation of Free Trade Unions, a panel of top diplomats and leaders of world labor will lead a discussion of problems facing the world's free labor movements.

Among those who are scheduled to participate in this panel discussion are Ambassador Agda Russell of Sweden, the top woman leader of that nation's labor movement; Ambassador Benjamin Cohen of Chile, former deputy to UN Secretary-General Trygve Lie; Mohammed Soplee of Malaya, a leading trade unionist of that country; and Charles Hogan, UN liaison officer.

Because of the convention last year, no Council meeting was held in 1958. The General Council, which was established at the merger convention in 1954, met in Washington, D.C. in 1955 and 1956, and in Atlantic City, N.J. in 1957. Next month's meeting will be the first such session ever held in New York.

## Histadrut Fund Tops \$14,000; Drive Picks Up Pace

An encouraging response from many RWDSU locals to the RWDSU-Histadrut Campaign was reported last week by Exec. Sec. Jack Paley, who is serving as director of the drive. Thus far, more than \$14,000 has been turned in, with many big locals still to be heard from.

The drive has as its objective the raising of \$100,000 for the construction of a Cultural Center in Ramat Gan, Israel, under the auspices of Histadrut, the Israel Federation of Labor. This center, similar to the ones donated by American labor in the names of the late William Green and Philip Murray, will be used for educational, recreational and trade union activities.

Paley noted the "remarkable showing" of Women's Apparel Employees Local 1125 in New York, which has turned in \$8,368. He paid tribute to the leadership of '1125' Pres. Louis Feldstein, who has been directing the drive in that local.

Paley also called attention to the fact that nine relatively small Canadian locals, ranging across that country from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, had turned in contributions. Paley reported that a number of other locals in both the U.S. and Canada had informed him that they would turn in their contributions at the RWDSU General Council meeting in June.

1-S	New York, N. Y.	\$ 150.00	150	Nashville, Tenn.	150.00
19	Memphis, Tenn.	25.00	180C	Port Gibson, Miss.	10.00
29	Indianapolis, Ind.	145.00	256	Norwood, Ohio	300.00
87	Saginaw, Mich.	50.00	260	New York, N. Y.	2.00
108	Newark, N. J.	1,000.00	262	Newark, N. J.	25.00
125	St. Joseph, Mo.	50.00	265	Columbus, Ohio	10.00
129A	Leland, Miss.	10.00	273	South Bend, Ind.	10.00
143	Buffalo, N. Y.	25.00	277	Dillonvale, Ohio	10.00
147	New York, N. Y.	75.00	282	New Haven, Conn.	500.00
			305	Mount Vernon, N. Y.	1,125.00
			353	Indianapolis, Ind.	10.00
			357	Anderson, Ind.	10.00
			379	Columbus, Ohio	120.00
			390	Cincinnati, Ohio	25.00
			414	Toronto, Ont.	50.00
			432	Kansas City, Mo.	20.00
			441	Birmingham, Ala.	50.00
			443	Mason, Mich.	50.00
			448	London, Ont.	25.00
			461	Birmingham, Ala.	25.00
			462	Anderson, Ind.	10.00
			468	Winnipeg, Man.	25.00
			483	Cardinal, Ont.	25.15
			503	New Orleans, La.	25.00
			530	Fremont, Mich.	10.00
			535	Vancouver, B. C.	24.00
			573	Burlington, Vt.	50.00
			580	Vancouver, B. C.	25.00
			584	Camden, N. J.	150.00
			584A	Newton, Mass.	50.00
			596	Sydney, N. S.	28.00
			598	Toronto, Ont.	25.00
			680	Anderson, Ind.	10.00
			690	South Bend, Ind.	15.00
			721	New York, N. Y.	575.00
			750	Anderson, Ind.	15.00
			880	Springfield, Ohio	20.00
			1015	New Glasgow, N. S.	25.00
			1020	Orlando, Fla.	10.00
			1055	Omaha, Nebr.	9.00
			1064	Detroit, Mich.	100.00
			1125	New York, N. Y.	3,368.70
			1612	South Bend, Ind.	5.00
				Chicago Jt.Bd. Chicago, Ill.	650.00
				District 65 New York, N. Y.	4,500.00
				Indiana Jt.Bd. Indiana	90.00
				Manitoba Jt.Bd. Winnipeg, Man.	175.00
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,071.85</b>

## Act Fast to Join RWDSU European Tour

Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!

There's not much time left if you want to get in on the greatest travel bargain ever offered to RWDSU members! A steady stream of applications and deposits is coming from members who want to join the first RWDSU-sponsored tour of Europe.

Two big DC-6B planes will leave Aug. 23 to take 160 fortunate vacationers on an unforgettable 23-day holiday in England, France, Switzerland, Italy and San Marino.

Special arrangements have been made through one of the largest and most reputable tour agencies to provide the RWDSUers with the best of every-

thing at the lowest possible cost. The entire 23-day trip, including air transportation, hotel accommodations, meals, tips, taxes, transportation in Europe by de luxe motor coach, sightseeing, excursions—even entertainment—will be available to RWDSU members for \$625 per person.

The member's wife (or husband) or other person in the immediate family may accompany an RWDSUer at the same low price of \$625. For those members who are interested only in air transportation to and from Europe, a number of seats on the airliners have been set aside. The cost of round-trip air transportation has been fixed at \$285—little more than half the lowest "economy" rate charged by the airlines.

In order to conform with Civil Aeronautics Board regulations, which limit the size of the organizations arranging chartered tours, the RWDSU has chartered one airliner for members of District 65, and the other plane for members of other New York locals.

There are still a number of places open on the tour, as well as several seats for those who want air transportation only. If you want to go to Europe Aug. 23, you'll have to act fast.

For applications and full information, fill in the coupon at left and mail it immediately to The Record's Travel Dept., 132 West 43rd Street, New York 36, N. Y., or telephone WI 7-9303.

Please send me information on the tour.

Name .....

Address .....

City ..... Zone No. ....

Where Employed .....

Local No. ....

in  
this  
issue

N.Y. Hospital Strike	3, 4, 5
The Midwest	6
The South	7
Canada	8
Biggest Union Family	9
RWDSU Testimony on Wage Law Changes	10, 11
Jane Goodsell Column	12
The Art of Makeup	12
Facts on Insurance	13
Labo News Roundup	14
Humor, Cartoons	15

## Note on Change of Address

When sending in a change of address to *The Record*, please make sure to include your old address as well as the new, and your local's number.

## RWDSU RECORD

Published by the

RETAIL, WHOLESALE & DEPT.  
STORE UNION, AFL-CIO

132 W. 43rd St., New York 36, N. Y.  
Telephone: WI 7-9303

Max Greenberg .....President  
Alvin E. Heaps ....Sec.-Treasurer  
Jack Paley .....Exec. Secretary  
Arthur Osman, Alex Ball,  
Exec. Vice-Presidents

Max Steinbock .....Editor  
Bernard Stephens, Managing Editor  
Stanley Glaubach ..... Art Editor  
Robert Dobbs, Hilbert Elson  
Assistant Editors

Published biweekly, except the  
first issue in January and August



Member publication, International  
Labor Press Assn. The Record  
receives the news release serv-  
ices of the AFL-CIO News Serv-  
ice, Press Associates-PAI and  
the Cooperative Press Assn. of  
Canada.

Subscription Price \$2.00 per year  
Reentered as second class matter June 9,  
1954, at the post office at New York, N.Y.,  
under the Act of March 2, 1879.

Vol. 6, No. 10, May 24, 1959

401

rwdsu RECORD





**LABOR LEADERS JOIN LINE:** A thousand union officers, representing million-member N.Y. Central Labor Council, picketed Beth Israel Hospital on Saturday, May 16 in stirring demonstration of solidarity with RWDSU Local 1199. Leading pickets are, from left: Max Greenberg (in dark coat and hat), Mike Quill, Matthew Guinan, Morris Iushewitz, Bill Michelson, Harry Van Arsdale, Bill Taylor, Mike Mann and Julius Sum.

# HOSPITAL STRIKE SOLID

## All Labor Backs Fight Against \$32 Wages

NEW YORK—Three thousand gallant strikers at six voluntary hospitals entered the third week of their walkout May 22 with the full power and resources of the New York labor movement solidly behind them, and with a rising crescendo of support for their cause from the public, coupled with denunciation of the hospital managements. The strike began Friday, May 8, after repeated efforts had failed to convince the millionaire hospital trustees to recognize and deal with the union chosen by their workers. Pleading futilely with the hospitals to do the right and decent thing were Mayor Robert Wagner, virtually every newspaper in the city, many prominent New Yorkers, including Eleanor Roosevelt, Senator Jacob Javits, Herbert Lehman, Thurgood Marshall, and many congressmen and clergymen. Right up to the strike deadline and for two ensuing weeks they stuck to their stubborn refusal to recognize the union.

At presstime Wednesday, May 20, the strikers by near-unanimous vote rejected a ballyhooed "memorandum of settlement" from the managements which provided for only a \$2 raise for many workers, and made no provision for recognition of the union. Despite frantic efforts of the managements to secure injunctions from anti-labor judges and jail Pres. Leon Davis and other leaders and strikers, the meeting resolved to carry on "no matter what they throw at us," until victory is won, and to extend the strike to other hospitals where majorities of the workers have joined Local 1199 and are raring to join the fight.

The strike began at the six hospitals—Mount Sinai, Beth David, Lenox Hill, Beth Israel, Brooklyn Jewish and Bronx Hospital—at 6 a.m. May 8, and each day thereafter the strikers have grown stronger, and support has mounted in a manner never before seen in New York.

"We are making this strike our strike," declared Harry Van Arsdale, president of the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, representing one million New York City trade unionists. Pres. George Meany of the AFL-CIO has also declared "full support" for RWDSU Local 1199 which is conducting the big strike.

Suiting action to words, Van Arsdale proceeded to rally the labor movement in unprecedented fashion.

• An emergency meeting of all 800 locals of AFL-CIO in New York convened Saturday morning, May 16, at the Roosevelt Auditorium to hear six of the strikers, and to pledge money, food and support on the picketlines. This was the first such united labor rally in New York history, and it drew from many speakers the remark: "This is what we've needed to shake up out of our doldrums." All 1,000 of the labor leaders marched to the Beth Israel picketline from the meeting, and completely circled the hospital.

• Following the meeting, money and food began arriving at Local 1199 headquarters in substantial amounts, including a pledge of a \$50,000 loan from Van Arsdale's own union, Local 3 of the Electrical Workers. As a result, the strikers were given food baskets last Tuesday, and will receive them twice a week for the duration of the strike.

• From wide sections of the labor movement came announcements of boycotts of various funds which aid the struck hospitals. Louis Hollander, Amalgamated Clothing Workers official and chairman of the State AFL-CIO, said his union was instituting a boycott, and a similar announcement came swiftly from the huge Building and Construction Trades Council, representing 275,000 workers in 235 locals. Peter Brennan, president of the Council, said delegates had voted unanimously

to withdraw financial support from the hospitals and such fund-raising groups as the Greater New York Fund, Catholic Charities, the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, and several Protestant groups that aid the hospitals. Said Brennan, after his Council heard two Beth Israel strikers tell of their \$32 pay and working conditions: "Why, some of our union members make more in one day than these poor people make in a week." The Building and Construction workers also voted to respect Local 1199 picketlines, and as a result work stopped on new wings at Lenox Hill, Mount Sinai and Brooklyn Jewish Hospitals.

• Waves of union members in huge numbers are arriving at the picketline of the six struck hospitals almost daily. Some 3,000 members of Electrical Workers Local 3 came to Beth Israel's lines. Building Service Local 32E surrounded Bronx Hospital; Drug Clerks from Local 1199 are marching regularly to Beth David from meetings; District 65—giving valiant aid to its sister local—has paraded at several hospitals; Local 1-8 of the RWDSU chartered buses Wednesday night to transport workers to the picketlines.

• With 80 to 90 percent of the striking workers Negroes and Puerto Ricans—a fact pointed to by Van Arsdale in charging discrimination against minority groups by the hospital trustees—the Negro and Puerto Rican communities are rallying in large numbers to the strikers' defense. From Harlem on Sunday, May 24, hundreds were to come from churches in busses to join the Mount Sinai picketlines, and in Puerto Rican neighborhoods rallies were being scheduled at presstime.

With the rejection of the phony "settlement" offer on May 20, the decks were cleared for reopening of negotiations on the real issues of the strike: substantial economic improvements, recognition of the union, and a genuine grievance system. As this issue went to press, the hospital trustees were faced with the choice of beginning genuine collective bargaining—or resorting to injunctions and wholesale arrests in an effort to break the strike.

### Locals of RWDSU Pitching In

New York locals of the RWDSU are rushing to the aid of their sister union, Drug Local 1199, whose entire staff and resources have been plunged into the mammoth hospital strike. At a meeting of leaders of the New York locals called by Pres. Max Greenberg on May 12, Bill Michelson, organization director of District 65 and an RWDSU vice-president, reported on the strike's progress and significance, and urged that the New York locals seek to raise \$5,000 a week for strike relief for the duration of the walkout. Pres. Greenberg backed the proposal, and at presstime informed The Record that substantial sums have come in to the International Union. He voiced the belief that the goal would be met.

Strong support from District 65—long associated with Local 1199—has been a major factor in the successful conduct of the strike. Michelson, at the request of Pres. Greenberg, has been a participant in negotiations with the hospital managements on behalf of the International Union. In addition, eleven staff members of '65' have been assigned full time to assist the strike leaders on the picketlines and at Local 1199 headquarters. The '65' headquarters at 13 Astor Place is being used as a food depot and distribution center where food packages for strikers' families are being made up.





**WAGES ARE SO LOW** at Mount Sinai and five other struck hospitals that a New York City welfare allowance is higher. Picket signs cite wages as low as \$32 for 40 hours at Mount Sinai Hospital.

## **- Never Before Such Support For a Group of Strikers**

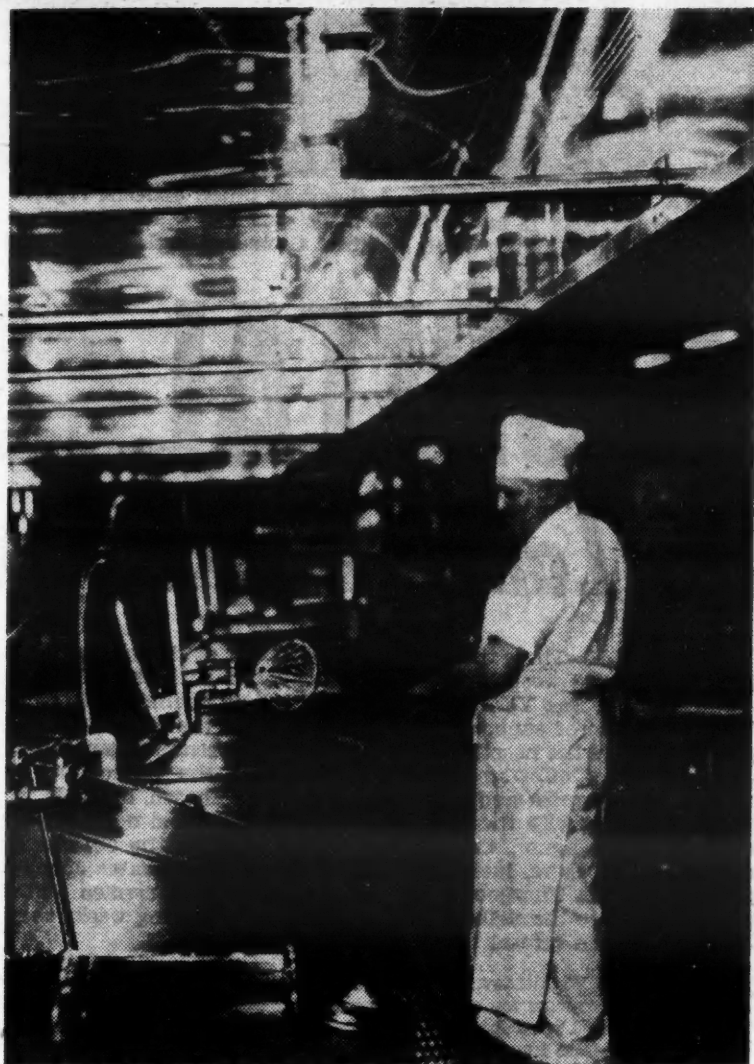
The strike of 3,000 hospital workers in New York City, led by the RWDSU's Local 1199, has set many "firsts", and in the view of veteran newspapermen and labor leaders will go down in history as one of the city's great labor struggles of all time.

Never before has the entire labor movement joined in with such unanimity and enthusiasm to help win a strike; never before has so much public sympathy been aroused over the plight of a group of workers, and public admiration expressed for their courage; never before has so large a group of workers defied threats of injunctions, arrests and jailings to carry on a strike.

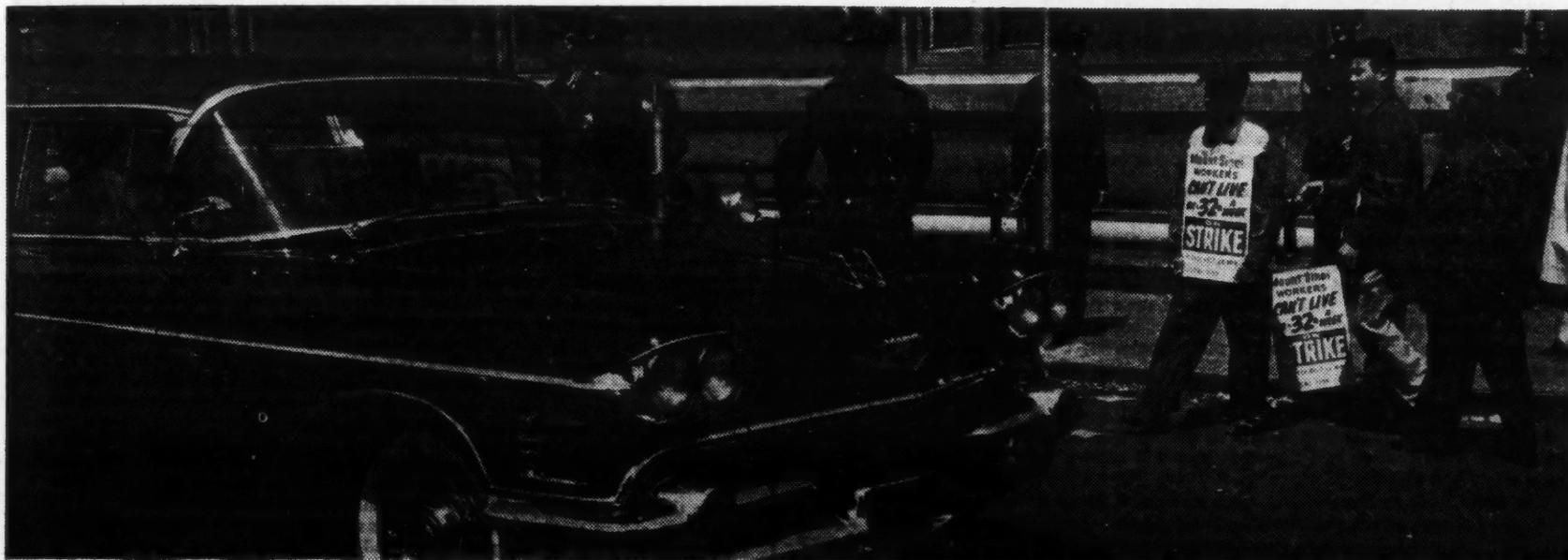
And perhaps one more "first" should be added: the arrogance and viciousness of the hospital managements. Maybe in past years employers have displayed greater indifference to the basic human rights of their workers, but if so the remembrance has been dimmed by time. The wages of \$30 and \$32 a week for full-time jobs have become known to millions through the picketlines, the newspapers and television. The refusal of the managements to permit the workers to be represented by a union is now widely known.

But one incident has done more to spread the truth about the millionaire trustees of these hospitals than anything else. A group of the miserably underpaid workers lived in rooming houses owned by the hospitals. Last week they were notified that they must get out—and sure enough, at Mount Sinai police threw into the streets the pitiful belongings of a 61-year-old woman who had lived in the room for 16 years.

Is it any wonder strikers on all six picketlines have said to reporters: "We can't go back without the union. We'd rather walk these picketlines forever, or go to jail, than give up this fight."



**KITCHEN CREW** is out on picket line as lone cook in Mt. Sinai tends pots. Patients have been fed "TV" dinners and other inadequate food, while hospital managements proclaim everything is "normal", trying to deny strike's effectiveness.



**CONTRAST:** Investment banker Joseph Klingenstein, president of Mt. Sinai Hospital, gets message from striking employees as he drives past them in his chauffeured Cadillac: "We can't live on \$32 a week," their signs declare.

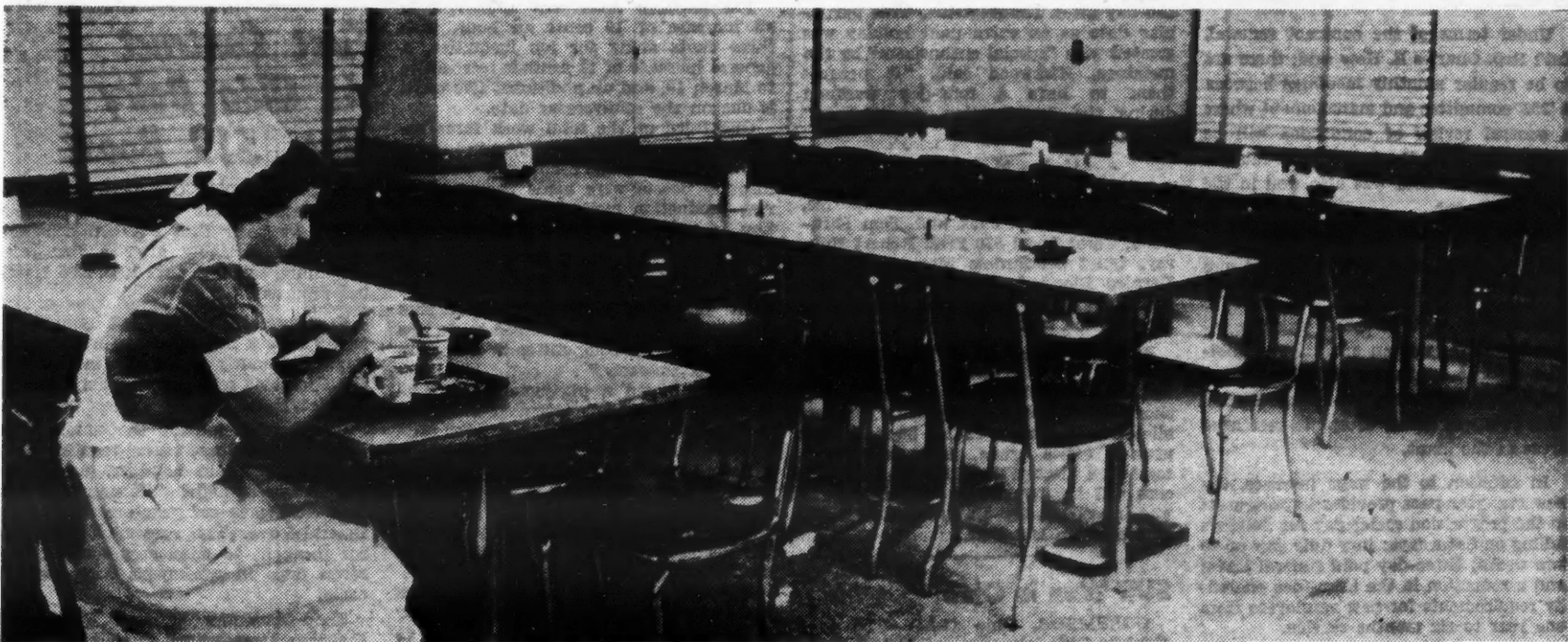




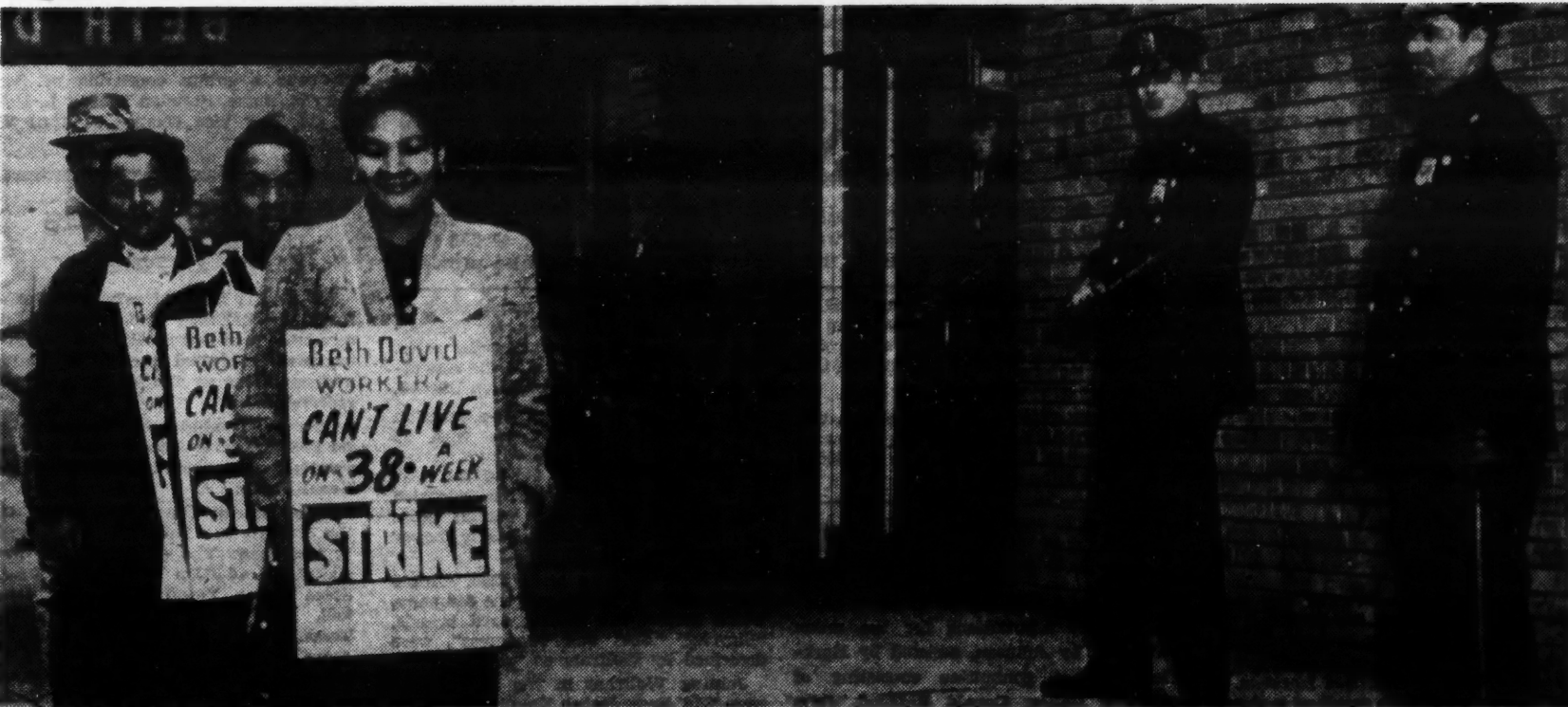
**RWDSU LEADERS** join mass picket line of top New York labor leaders at Beth Israel Hospital following their emergency meeting May 16. Left to right, Int'l Sec. Treas. Al Heaps, Local 906 Pres. Joe McCarthy and Bus. Agent Joe O'Brien.



**PUBLIC LEARNS** how slave wages, desperate conditions and management refusal to bargain with workers forced them to strike, through leaflets distributed by strikers at Beth Israel (above) and five other voluntary hospitals.



**MISSING DINERS** in cafeteria at Mount Sinai Hospital are all on picket lines. Lone nurse—doctors and nurses are not involved in strike—has deserted tables all to herself, as shown in this picture taken by New York Times photographer.



**"CAN'T LIVE ON \$38 A WEEK,"** Beth David workers tell visitors and public with picket signs. These strikers and their 3,000 co-workers in five other hospitals, show valiant spirit in fight against starvation wages and exploitation.



## The Midwest

# 800 in Fremont, Mich. Win 6.5 to 10c Raise At Gerber Baby Food

FREMONT, Mich.—Eight hundred members of Local 530 employed at Gerber Baby Foods gained a 4% wage increase plus hikes in premium pay rates and several improvements in working conditions through contract negotiations last month, it was reported by Int'l Rep. Jack Kirkwood. The general increase adds from 6½ to 10 cents an hour to their wages.

## Grievance System Helps End Strike Of 125 in Cincy

CINCINNATI, O.—A better system of resolving grievances of Local 258 members was a major factor in the settlement of a one-week strike by the 125 employees of Institutional Industries, surgical equipment plant, on May 10.

Under terms of the contract renewal, Int'l Rep. Charles E. Hess said, there are to be regular monthly meetings between a '258' committee and management where a general review of conditions will be made. An across-the-board wage raise of eight cents an hour was also won in the new agreement.

"In this way," Hess said, "grievances will be handled more efficiently and sore spots will be eliminated."

One of those "sore spots" existing before the strike was an arbitrary prohibition against employees smoking on the job, except during two ten-minute breaks. This rule was lifted, except in restricted areas in the plant.

In addition to the wage increase, the new one-year pact provides improvement in the progression scale; pay for holidays falling on Saturdays; jury duty pay up to two weeks; three-day paid funeral leave; and a reduction in the insurance eligibility requirements for new employees from one year to six months service.

Members of the Local 258 committee that negotiated the contract were: Pres. Grover Lacey, Vice Pres. Robert Brand, Rec. Sec. Ruth Stephens, Fin. Sec. Bill Webber and Chief Steward Lee McFarland.

Also gained in the new two-year agreement are provisions for time and a half for work performed on Saturdays, double time on Sundays and double time and a half on holidays. One-half cent per hour is to be added to workers' pay for the cost of gloves when needed.

The contract provides for a reopener to negotiate changes in wages and vacations on March 31, 1960.

The pact also contains changes which improve the bidding procedure, add one more division steward and liberalize vacation eligibility.

A seventh paid holiday was added—the day after Thanksgiving. This particular date as an extra paid holiday was greeted with "special enthusiasm" by the members, Kirkwood said. "It permits them to have a four-day weekend during the deer-hunting season here," he explained.

### Union Negotiators

On the union negotiating committee, led by Int'l Reps. Jack and Tom Kirkwood, were: Local 530 Pres. Robert Harvey, Chief Stewardess Marian Rumsey, Bernice Blondeel, Robert Hettmansperger, Donald Tinkham, Margaret Olson, Elmer Olson and Erwin Hodge.

Plans for constructing its own headquarters building have been completed by Local 530, and work will begin in a short time, it was announced. The new all-brick structure, 42 by 80 feet, will provide office space, a large meeting room and kitchen facilities. Approximate cost will be \$27,000. The building fund was raised partly through a dues increase begun last year.

### SUB Won in Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio (PAI)—The long fight by Ohio labor for supplemental unemployment benefits has been won with the signing of an emergency bill permitting such payments by Governor Di Salle. It is not expected that opponents of the measure will seek to bar it through the courts.



PILLSBURY PACT SIGNED with RWDSU Local 160, Hamilton, O., giving members largest single wage boost. Seated l. to r.: RWDSU Regional Dir. Jerry Hughes, plant Mgr. Van Holmes, Local 160 Pres. Dave Pierce, plant Personnel Mgr. Dan Rengers. Standing: Union committee members Freeland Whitt, Cecil Powers, Lacy Pierce and Ass't Personnel Mgr. Randy Hurst.

## 'Biggest Wage Boost Ever' At Pillsbury in Hamilton, O.

HAMILTON, O.—The largest single wage boost ever won by employees of the Pillsbury Co. cake mix plant here was negotiated by Local 160 on May 12, it was reported by Regional Director Jerry Hughes.

The package settlement amounted to an increase of 19 cents an hour, with three cents going for job inequities. A general increase of 11 cents is retroactive to March 19, and an additional five cents is due on the anniversary date.

One third of the total work force received inequity increases ranging from five cents to 15 cents per hour. The many inequity boosts were made necessary by new production methods under automation to which the plant has been converting for the past two years.

"This fine wage settlement is the result of many strenuous hours of negotiations due to the automation," Hughes said. "The company was forced to do this by the increased competition in the ready cake mix industry."

Hughes noted a phenomenon in employment under automation at Pillsbury. There have been more jobs since the conversion than before it went into effect a year ago. Also, employment has been more stable in the plant in the past year than before, he pointed out.

"All of us who have been involved in the negotiations feel a great satisfaction over the outcome," said Hughes.

The new contract brings the total wage boost since 1955 to 42 cents an hour for female package line workers, and to 64 cents for male operators.

Representing the union in negotiations, in addition to Hughes, were Local 160 Pres. Dave Pierce, Freeland Whitt of the engineering department, Cecil Powers of the warehouse, and Lacy Pierce of the production department.

## First Contract At Ohio Dairy Nets \$19 Boost

WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE, O.—Employees of the Med-O-Pure Dairy here have their first RWDSU contract, negotiated amicably after a few brief bargaining sessions, Int'l Rep. Ned Harkless reported.

Earnings will be increased by as much as \$19 a week in the change from weekly wages to hourly pay rates in new job classifications set up under the contract, Harkless said.

Other gains include the union shop, dues checkoff, three weeks' vacation after 15 years, six paid holidays, guaranteed 44-hour week, night shift premium, five days sick leave per year and three days funeral leave. The agreement also calls for payment to employees for the first seven days in workmen's compensation cases.

Shop Chairman Warren S. Woods said that the negotiations were carried out with mutual cooperation. "There was a definite aim by both sides to arrive at an agreement that was worthy both of the company and the union," he said. "We have a contract that we are proud of."

Assisting Woods and Harkless in the talks was a group consisting of Sec. Henry E. Blake, Steward Everett L. Nelson, Jr., and Vice Chairman Virgil W. Leach.

## '1064' Re-elects Paul Domeny

DETROIT, Mich.—Newly elected officers of Local 1064 were installed in a ceremony here last month. Paul Domeny was re-elected general secretary and continues as the local's full-time representative.

The membership voted unanimously for revisions of by-laws which had previously been approved by the International Union.

Administering the oath of office to the officials was Int'l Vice-Pres. John V. Kirkwood. The following were installed, in addition to Domeny: Pres. Steve Kottch, Vice-Pres. Warner Markell, Rec. Sec. Elizabeth Philmore, Treas. Steve J. Lakatos, Sr., Trustees Anna Kustra, Charles Schwartz and Michael Shirak, Sgt.-at-Arms Homer Armistead, and Exec. Board members Margaret D'Arcy and James Anderson.

# 15c Hike for 750 at U. S. Playing Card

CINCINNATI, O.—Wages of the 750 employees of the United States Playing Card Co. were boosted by 15 cents per hour under a new two year agreement effective May 1, it was announced by RWDSU Local 256 Fin. Sec. James Wolfram. Improvements in the vacation schedule and in the union's welfare plan are also provided

now range from a starting figure of \$1.44 per hour for general factory work up to \$2.57 for skilled full-position employees. Those figures will rise next year to \$1.51 and \$2.64, respectively.

Improvements in the welfare plan will result from an increase in the company-paid premium from \$30,000 to \$32,500 a year, Wolfram said.

It was also agreed that employees hurt on the job shall receive pay for the balance of the day at their regular rates, and, for the next six days, at the rate allowed by the State Compensation Bureau.

The notable change in the vacation schedule concerns employees with 25 years of service. Those who have worked more than 1,000 hours during the year are now to receive 120 hours vacation with pay—or 6% of time worked up to 135 hours. Formerly, the yearly hours' requirement was 1,500.

Relations between Local 256, United Playing Card Workers, and the company, which makes the leading card brands, "Bicycle," "Bee" and "Congress", were described by Wolfram as "very good."

Joining Wolfram in the negotiations were '256' Pres. Joseph Kelsch, Vice-Pres. William Martin and members Freda Burbacher and John Biens.

## Diamond Milk Pay Rates Brought Up

COLUMBUS, O.—Average pay raises for the employees of the Diamond Milk Co. amount to about 85 cents a day under terms of a new two-year contract, it was reported by Int'l Rep. Ned Harkless.

The increase is the result of a change-over from daily pay rates to hourly rates in new job classifications for plant work-

ers, Shop Chairman John Johnson said.

Contract negotiations for the union were led by Johnson, assisted by Harkless, and a committee consisting of Charles Dailey, Donald Bidgood, John Tierney, Charles Bowen, Albert Callahan, Edgar Yahn and Ed Lemon.



## Georgia Dairy Votes RWDSU By 30-18

ATHENS, Ga.—A five-month organizing campaign at the Better Maid Dairy, during which the company put up rough resistance with various obstacles, has ended in a decisive election victory for the RWDSU. Negotiations are now in progress for a first contract, with Local 315 representing the 60 employees.

The final count in the vote held on May 7 was 30 for the union and 18 for no union, with nine ballots challenged. Three of those ballots were cast by supervisors, Int'l Rep. Guy Dickinson reported.

Reinstatement of six employees fired during the organizing campaign is a key demand of the union in the contract talks, Dickinson said. The company attorney, a member of what Dickinson called "the most anti-union law firm in Georgia," went through the Better Maid plant for three days before the election trying to convince the workers they did not need a union.

### 70 Cents an Hour Wages

But they apparently thought otherwise. Working under substandard wages and hours, they got as little as 70 cents an hour. The 22 route salesmen received \$55 for a 72 to 90 hour week. Salesmen's helpers got as low as \$25 a week to start. "Is there any doubt as to why they voted for the union?" Dickinson asked.

During the pre-election hearings, company spokesmen made efforts to include supervisors in the voting unit. Then they tried to include the employees of two other Better Maid plants, each of them more than 50 miles away from Athens. All of these tactics succeeded only in delaying the election, for the NLRB ultimately ruled in the union's favor, approving the voting unit for which it had petitioned.

The RWDSU is planning to start campaigns soon at the two other Better Maid plants in Gainesville and Tooca, he said.

Serving on the negotiations committee in the Athens plant are Shop Chairman Billy Patman, Routemen Johnnie Maxey and Cleveland Colie; and Guy Tiller, Vernon Smith and Ed Faulkner. The last two were among the six employees fired during the campaign.

### Where Will Union Label Go?

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (PAI)—The International Ladies Garment Workers Union's union label campaign has been rolling but Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell told delegates to the ILGWU 30th convention that they might have some troubles.

"Yesterday afternoon, standing at my hotel window watching the bathers, I wondered where you were going to put the union label on a bathing suit. There doesn't seem to be much room," he said.

# The South

## Election Win Marks Breakthru In Bakeries of Charleston, S. C.

CHARLESTON, S.C.—A significant election victory for the RWDSU at the Claussen Baking Co. here on May 13 marked the first breakthrough in Charleston's baking industry by organized labor. The count was 26 to 16 for Local 15-A, Int'l Rep. Larry Larsen reported. The National Labor Relations Board conducted the election.



**SOLID AT CONSOLIDATED:** Local 745 committee negotiating renewal with Consolidated Dairies in Birmingham, Ala., includes, standing l. to r.: J. B. Bearden, Pres. Harry Welch, V. Ledbetter, Bob Hawkins, Jack Gadsley, Ray Madison, Ralph M. Powell and Eldon Defoor. Seated, plant manager E. F. Gillespie. Also present was Asst Area Dir. Frank Parker, who took picture.

The vote climaxed a successful reorganizing drive at the plant where an RWDSU campaign had been thwarted by the company's unfair labor practices in 1955. Negotiations for a first contract for the 45 workers were to begin soon.

With this comeback victory racked up at Claussen's, the doors have been opened to further organization in the city's baking industry, Larsen noted.

The drive at Claussen's that ended so successfully on May 13 was begun four months ago, involving intensive home-to-home visiting of employees.

"As you can see," said Larsen, "the results were excellent. We cracked through Claussen's iron curtain."

In the RWDSU's first organizing effort in 1955, three workers were fired for union activity. Unfair labor practice charges were filed against the company, and a "don't-buy" campaign by the union followed. The company was ordered by the NLRB to stop interfering with its employees' right to join a union of their choice. One worker was subsequently reinstated with full back pay.

Contributing to the union's May 13 election victory was AFL-CIO Regional Director Cary Haigler. He sent Organizers Jackson and Schnell to reinforce the Local 15-A drive in the last three days.

"But the real backbone of the drive was the plant committee," Larsen added. The members of that group were Billy Roberts, Charles Bryant and Harry Galashaw. Also in the forefront of the fight were two laid-off members, Bernie Martin and Buster Johnson.

Larsen also noted that Local 15-A during the crucial campaign had "the valuable guidance and advice" of RWDSU Exec. Vice Pres. Arthur Osman, Asst Area Director Frank Parker and Regional Director Irv Lebold.

## RWDSU to Appeal Conviction of Strike Leader on 'Bombing' Charge

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Appeal of the conviction of an RWDSU strike leader on phony "bombing" charges is pending in the Alabama State Court of Appeals.

### New Election Due At Amer. Bakery

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—A new election will be held among the 60 driver salesmen of the American Bakery plant here where the RWDSU lost a vote six months ago under circumstances which the NLRB found were full of unfair labor practices by the company. A date will be set for the new election.

The union lost the vote by only four ballots—24 to 29, with one challenge—in the election held last November. A protest against the results was filed by the union, showing that the plant manager and sales manager had engaged in "the most vicious kind of anti-union activities," Asst Area Dir. Frank Parker reported. The NLRB, upheld the union's charges.

Alexander White, Negro shop steward, faces a ten-year jail term to which he was sentenced following his conviction by an all-white jury on April 29. He is free on bail. No date has been set for the trial of his co-defendant, John Richardson on the same trumped-up charges, brought as a result of a conspiracy by an employer bent on busting the union.

The case grew out of the alleged "bombing" of the frontyard of the home of a scab at the Perfection Mattress Co. last November. The so-called weapon injured no one and caused negligible damage to the lawn. White was convicted despite proof at his trial showing he was home at the time of the incident. He and Richardson were leaders of the strike at the Perfection plant.

Indignant leaders of the RWDSU and of organized labor in Birmingham and in the state called the trial and verdict the result of "an obvious and outrageous frameup" of two trade unionists.

## N. Carolina Votes 75 Cent Minimum

RALEIGH, N.C. (PAI)—North Carolina has adopted the strongest minimum wage law in any Southern state. The 75 cents an hour floor was passed by the Senate by 43 to 6. It was hailed by State AFL-CIO officials but they also criticized the wide exemptions in the law.

When the law goes into effect next Jan. 1, it will mean pay raises for an estimated 55,000 workers, mainly in retail trade jobs and service industries such as laundries and dry cleaners.

## Cooperation of Negro-White Pays Off at Planters Peanut

SUFFOLK, Va.—How cooperation between white and Negro co-workers pays off in economic gains for all is seen in recent developments in the Planters' Nut & Chocolate Co. plant here.

This profitable teamwork is described by Pres. Lock J. Parker of Local 26 as a major factor in winning one of the union's biggest victories—the contract settlement last month that brought wage gains and other improvements worth a total of over \$200,000 to the 1,700 employees. Negroes comprise about 75% of the working force at Planters, largest peanut processing plant in the world.

Parker cites several concrete examples at Planters in which "all of us, working together, forgetting our differences, have won better working conditions."

In Planters bag-printing department, for instance, only two of its 27 workers were members of Local 26, and their problems had therefore never been taken up by the union. However, these workers, seven of whom are women, began to see the progress in other departments, and decided they would bring their problems to the union. Most of the men are press operators, the others semi-skilled employees on utility pay rates.

Their main beef, Parker explained, was that for the most part they were not properly classified. Moreover, he said, the Negro workers in this group doing the identical jobs as whites were paid lower rates.

"The white employees," he continued, "came to union headquarters and protested against the Negro men working at labor rates while white men working alongside them doing the same work received press operator rates. At the same time, the Negro men joined in protesting the low classification of white men in this department."

### Eleven Receive Promotions

The result: "The problems were presented to Planters' top management by the union's grievance committee, and eleven employees received promotions, six of them at one time. All but one worker then signed up with Local 26 and elected themselves a shop steward."

In all, Parker said, the union's grievance machinery succeeded during 1958 in getting 35 individual adjustments in classifications for both Negro and white workers at Planters.

Another example of the effectiveness of this teamwork on the job came in last year's contract negotia-

tions. With construction crew members of both races on the committee—"and each speaking for the other," Parker emphasized—the entire crew got a wage increase of seven cents above the previous year's boost.

One more example shown by Parker is the joint negotiating committee of the machine shop. The happy result of this combination was the promotion of eight Negro employees from laborers to skilled status—three to plumbers, one from fourth to third-class machinist, two to machine operators, one to utility and one to sheet metal worker.

Referring to the teamwork in last month's contract victory—with its 5-to-7 cents wage increases and improvements in job protection, seniority rights, grievance machinery and distribution of overtime work—Parker said:

"It used to be hard to get white workers to serve on the negotiating committee in the early years of the union at Planters. But the picture has changed. Of the 18 members of the committee in the negotiations last month, seven were white. On the negotiating and the grievance committees, this has made us stronger and better able to take care of all the workers' problems."



## Canada

# Conciliation Officer Named In Canada Rice Dispute After Pact Talks Collapse

VANCOUVER, B.C.—A conciliation officer has been appointed to help bring about a settlement in the deadlocked negotiations for renewal of an agreement between Local 580 and the Canada Rice Mills. The conciliator, appointed by the Province's Minister of Labor, is Jack Laffling.

Talks between the union and representatives of Management Research, expansion, particularly in the energy which handles labor relations for the mills, collapsed at the end of April after four meetings.

## IWA Officers Sue Smallwood Over TV Libels

ST. JOHN'S (CPA)—Three officers of the International Woodworkers of America (IWA) have posted a \$1,500 bond with the provincial Supreme Court here, enabling their suit for libel against Newfoundland Premier Joseph Smallwood to be proceeded with.

The officials are IWA District 2 Pres. H. Landon Ladd of Toronto, field director Jeff Hall of Sault Ste. Marie and representative Jack-McCool of Fort William.

The bond is necessary, the court said, to cover costs in the event that the IWA loses the case.

Libel action involves statements during a February telecast by the premier calling on loggers to boot their union out of the province. At one point the premier referred to "filth, hate and poison" brought in by "outsiders."

The IWA officials said the "outsiders" must refer to them since they are the only executive IWA officials not from Newfoundland.

Asking for parity with conditions in other similar operations in the area, the union had proposed amendments covering numerous items, including wages, union shop, severance pay, a pension plan and vacations for the plant's 60 employees who work at milling rice and packaging fruit.

When the company refused to offer any definite concessions until Local 580 modified its proposals, the union applied to the Minister of Labor to assign a conciliation officer to aid in the dispute.

Serving on the union's negotiating committee are Helen King, Mary Taylor, Ernie Hengstler, Joe Visser and Alec Hamilton.

## Knowles to Tour Israel As Guest of Histadrut

OTTAWA (CPA)—Canadian Labor Congress Executive Vice-Pres. Stanley H. Knowles will tour Israel for one week as a guest of Histadrut, the General Federation of Labor there.

From Israel the Congress official travels to Geneva, where he is Canadian Workers' Delegate to the 43rd session of the International Labor Conference.

# Ontario Goes to Polls June 11; CCF Program Stated

TORONTO (CPA)—Ontario will go to the polls June 11 to elect a new provincial government. Announcement of the election was made here by Conservative Premier Frost on the tenth anniversary of his assumption of office. At dissolution the Tories held 84 of the 98 seats in the provincial legislature. The Liberals held 11 and the CCF three.

The Tories' election manifesto, released by the premier with his announcement, cites the government's record for the past ten years and outlines plans for expansion, particularly in the energy field.

Liberal leader Wintermeyer greeted the announcement with a declaration that his party would nominate candidates in all 98 ridings. The Liberals will campaign on the top-heavy Conservative majority, educational reform, portable pensions, low-cost homes, and new policies for liquor control, farms, highways, labor and finance.

## 'Fresh New Vision'

CCF Ontario leader Donald C. MacDonald, in the most comprehensive opening salvo, commented that the people of Ontario now have a chance to start the next decade with a CCF government—"a fresh new vision" which the Conservatives "lost a long time ago."

The CCF program, titled "A Challenge for Ontario," calls for:

- Full employment, with school, hospital and low-cost housing construction;
- Public ownership of natural gas in the province;
- Northern development through improvement of the Lakehead harbor; cheaper power and transportation; and help to municipalities through a forestry and mines program;
- Free tuition to qualified university students; payment of half all educational

costs; and a "broader approach" to education in general;

- Complete health insurance, including benefits covering up to 75 percent of lost earnings, and dentist and doctor bills;

- Mandatory auto insurance;

- Land assembly and capital gains taxes on real estate speculations to provide low-cost housing;

- Improved labor legislation to encourage free trade unionism;

- Support for producer farm-marketing plans.

To finance these projects the CCF would increase corporation taxes, and also boost liquor taxes and resources levies. The liquor taxes would affect the distillers, not the consumers. No sales tax would be instituted.

## Taxpayers' Funds Held Prolonging Polymer Strike

OTTAWA (CPA)—Canadian taxpayers' money is being used to prolong unnecessarily the strike at the Crown-owned Polymer Corp. at Sarnia, Canadian Labor Congress secretary-treasurer Donald MacDonald charged here.

The Crown corporation has rejected a federal conciliation board report award, and is prolonging the strike of members of Local 16-14, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union, through the use of public funds, he said.

The strike started March 19 to back up demands for contract improvements and prevent the Crown corporation from canceling existing clauses in the agreement. The union, Mr. MacDonald recalled, began bargaining in May 1958 for its 1,700 plant and 150 laboratory members.

## Conciliation Unsuccessful

Attempts by a conciliation officer to resolve the dispute last June were unsuccessful. The conciliation board which was then appointed held hearings in September and November last year, and reported on Jan. 17 this year.

The union, the CLC officer noted, had accepted recommendations in the Board's report, but the Polymer management rejected them. Strike votes of 93.45 percent of the plant employees and 92 percent of the lab workers resulted in the March 19 walkout.

The men had originally asked for a 10 percent wage boost, to make Polymer rates comparable with those paid in private industry, including other Sarnia area petro-chemical plants.

The union had stressed, however, that they were willing to compromise on monetary issues, but would have to resist attempts to weaken job security provisions in the contract.

The Canadian Labor Congress, Mr. MacDonald recounted, has "wholeheartedly endorsed" the position of the OCAW, and "condemns the prolongation of this dispute by the Corporation, in the face of a conciliation board award which the union is prepared to accept, through the use of taxpayers' money."

"The Canadian Labor Congress also requests the federal government to appoint a new mediator to attempt a resolution of the dispute in the light of the termination of the services of Mr. F. T. Ainsborough as a disputes commissioner," he concluded.

# '5 Foulers' Win RWDSU Bowling Meet in B.C.

VANCOUVER, B.C.—More than 100 members of the RWDSU in the Vancouver area took over the Orchid Ballroom here in mid-May for the union's third annual bowling banquet. Feature of the evening's program was the presentation of trophies to the league's champion team and to outstanding bowlers by Int'l Rep. Bud Hodgins.

The top aggregation this year was the Five Foulers, captained by Jim Welch. His teammates were Arlene Jacks, Betty Lattimer, Cleone Brown, Andy Vandrop and Jack Buis.

High-average trophies went to Art Lightfoot, who ran up a 207 average; and to Isabel Pinchin, who scored a 169 to lead the ladies.

Other trophies went to Arthur Knox and to Mabel Paul for their High Three scores, 756 and 657 respectively. Bert Williams with a 307 and Carol Pinchin with 270 won the High Single trophies.

Mert Watson and Valey Zevick were re-elected president and secretary of the league for the next year, while Sam Civitarese was named vice-president.



RWDSU Bowling League retiring secretary, Gordy Hall, is presented with gift by Local 535 Pres. Jim Mason in appreciation of services to league in past three years. Approving viewers, l. to r., are: League Pres. Merle Watson, League Sec. Wally Zevich and '580' Pres. Vic Sanford.



Winning team in the RWDSU's bowling league in Vancouver, B.C., is presented with trophy by Int'l Rep. Bud Hodgins, l. Receiving prize on behalf of teammates is Capt. Jim Welch. Other bowlers in photo, l. to r., are Betty Lattimer, Arlene Jacks, Andy Vandrop and Jack Buis. At right are Local 535 Pres. Jim Mason and Local 580 Pres. Vic Sanford.



# One Member's Family

RWDSUer in Ontario Has 18 Children

By HILBERT ELSON

KITCHENER, Ont.—Milkman Bill Bestor is one worker who's had long and intimate familiarity with that most basic incentive to union membership—a lot of mouths to feed.

Right now, the number is up to an even 20.

Get out your census chart and take down these vital statistics: William and Alice Bestor and their 18 children—repeat 18; twelve boys and six girls, ranging in age from one month to 24 years. Bill is 52 and Alice is 46.

"Yes sir, I've been a union man just about all my working life," says Bill, a driver salesman for the Westside Dairy in Kitchener, and busy chairman of the Kitchener Division of the RWDSU's Dairy Workers Local 440, comprising Silverwood's, Maple Lane and Westside. "And now—well, I've got my own 'local' here on Madison Avenue."

The Bestor family organization is incontestably the biggest domestic unit among the RWDSU's 150,000 members. Any challengers?

Bill's shopmates at Westside kid him about making it an even two dozen. But he kids them right back when they josh him about his big brood.

"It's not so big," he quips. "Only a dozen and a half kids."

But don't let anyone tell Bill Bestor it's "cheaper by the dozen and a half."

It takes \$100 a week just to feed this populous tribe—even with two of the oldest boys living away from home at the moment. The 18 Bestors go through vast amounts of victuals each week. Some choice statistics: 56 quarts of milk, 45 loaves of bread, a bushel of potatoes, a bushel of apples, a case of oranges.

There's little expense in the housing department. The Bestors own the eight-room house in which they live with 16 of their children, a standard wooden frame dwelling in the older residential section of Kitchener at 123 Madison Avenue. Weekly expenses run to about \$150 to maintain all of the 18 occupants comfortably.

## Income About \$166 a Week

To fill in the rest of the economics of the Bestor household . . . Bill's earnings as a driver salesman run upwards of \$75 a week. Add another \$75 brought in by the five oldest at-home children who work at various jobs in town, full and part-time. Plus \$68 a month contributed by the Dominion Government under the "Baby Bonus" Act. Passed during World War II to reward expanding families, this law provides grants of \$6 a month for each child up to the age of 6; \$7 up to age 12; and \$8 up to age 16. Ten Bestor babies are eligible.

It all adds up to an income of about \$166 a week.

In addition, the Bestors—except the over-18 kids—all receive free doctor care under the welfare plan of the Local 440 contract at Westside Dairy; and hospitalization, if they need it, is now available through the new Province of Ontario Hospital Commission.

It's a highly organized household, the Bestors'. Necessarily so. There's a real division of labor in the unending housekeeping and cooking chores. The older girls all help mother with the cleaning, cooking and feeding operations and in looking after the smaller children. Of course, with 18 people and only eight rooms, "it's a little crowded," Bill notes. But double-decker bunks—"like an army camp"—help to prevent it from being more so.

Still, the feeding arrangements do get kind of complicated, with so many different individual work and school schedules. Bill starts on his milk route at 6:30 a.m. and finishes at 2:30 in the afternoon. The five bread-winning children have varying work hours, and the school-age youngsters don't all have the same hours, either.

Despite all his heavy family duties and obligations, Brother Bill Bestor still "devotes himself diligently to the labor movement," Local 440 Educational Director Gordon Reekie points out.

"As chairman of the Kitchener Division, Bill is a strong leader of our local in that area with its 140 members," said Reekie.

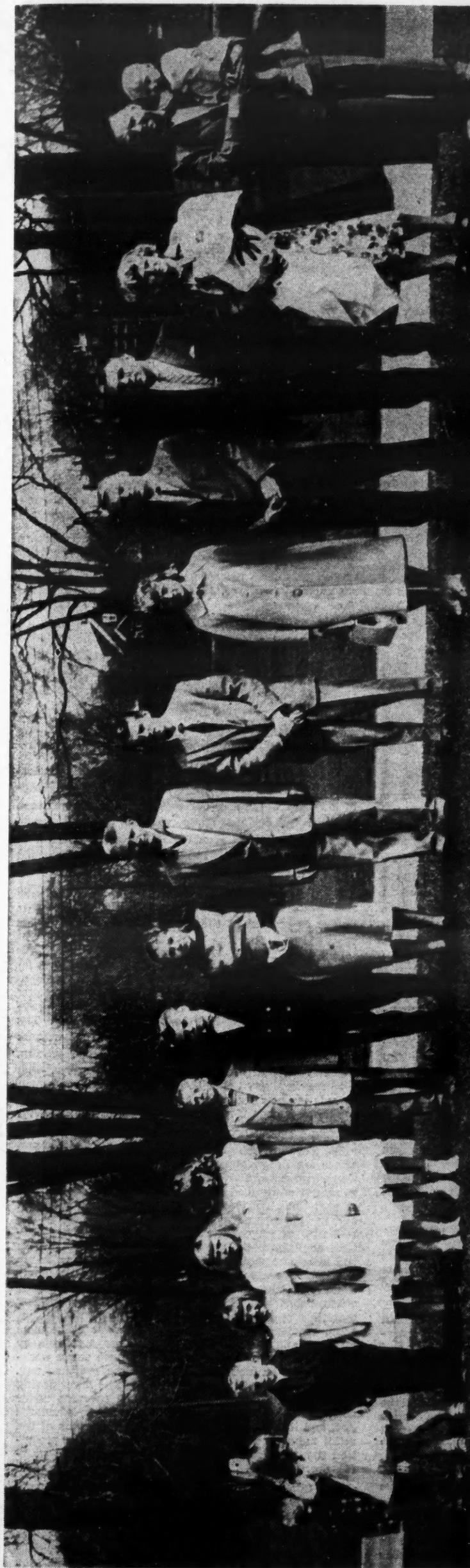
The biggest social event in the family's history will take place next month when William and Alice Bestor observe their 25th wedding anniversary.

Bill is looking forward to this event eagerly for another reason. "We'll be able to have a picture taken of the full family—all 20 of us together for the first time!"

No, he's not tired of all the publicity his 18 offspring have brought him. Not yet, anyway.

"Actually," he explains, "there wasn't any publicity till we had the 17th!" (That was Mark, 19 months back.) "But what's all the fuss about now? Only a dozen and a half kids. That's not such a big family. . ."

← THE BESTOR FAMILY, left to right: Danny, 3; Donna, 5; Michael, 6; Theresa, 7; Bonnie, 9; Darlene, 11; Dennis, 12; Brian, 13; Mary, 15; Patrick, 16; Tommy, 17; Peggy, 19; Bernice, 22; Jerome, 21; Mrs. Bestor holding Richard, one month, Mr. Bestor holding Mark, 19 months. Jimmy, 24, and Bill, Jr., 20, are not in photo.







At May 7 Senate hearing on wage law, Pres. Max Greenberg, urges extension of coverage, increase to \$1.25 an hour in minimum wage. With him are 'Record' Editor Max Steinbock, left, and Legislative Rep. Kenneth A. Meiklejohn.

# RWDSUers Urge Congress

On these two pages are reprinted excerpts from the testimony presented by the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union on May 7, the opening day of Senate Labor Committee hearings on proposals to extend coverage of the federal wage-hour law and to boost the minimum wage to \$1.25 an hour. Appearing before Senator John F. Kennedy's sub-committee that day were AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany, AFL-CIO Research Dir. Stanley Rutenberg, RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg, and two rank-and-file members of the RWDSU: Mary Lougjoy of Alabama and Martha Gregory of Indiana. Pres. Greenberg's statement follows:

Senator Kennedy, and Members of the Subcommittee:

I appreciate very much this opportunity to appear before you once again on behalf of the more than 160,000 members of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, AFL-CIO, in support of legislation to extend the coverage of the Fair Labor Standards Act to retail, service and many other presently excluded workers and to raise the minimum wage under the Act to \$1.25 an hour. Specifically, I am here to urge your Subcommittee, the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare and the Senate itself to give prompt approval to the Kennedy-Morse bill (S. 1046), the proposed "Fair Labor Standards Amendments of 1959."

I first testified before you on this subject four years ago. This Subcommittee held hearings on amendments to the Act in 1955 and on proposals to extend the coverage of the Act in 1956 and 1957. I submitted detailed facts and arguments on behalf of our organization during each of those series of hearings in support of our contention that extension of the coverage of the Act to retail workers was long overdue and that the unfair and unjust exclusion of these workers from the protection of the Act should be speedily remedied.

## RWDSU Supports \$1.25 Minimum

I would like to make clear that although we are naturally most directly interested in improvements in the Fair Labor Standards Act that will extend the protection of the Act to retail, service and other workers, we also support wholeheartedly the position of other unions that are urging that the Act be improved by raising the minimum wage under the Act from its present level of \$1.00 an hour to \$1.25 an hour. The RWDSU is one of the nineteen unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO that have formed the AFL-CIO Joint Minimum Wage Committee to carry out a coordinated campaign to secure enactment of legislation to broaden and raise the minimum wage under the Act during this session of the Congress. This Committee includes many unions, like our own, that are primarily concerned with the

coverage problem, and others that are primarily interested in raising the minimum wage.

In previous years, some of these unions worked for a common program, while others had their own special bills which they advocated. This year, however, we are all united—the unions that are primarily interested in coverage and the unions that are primarily interested in increasing the minimum wage—in supporting a single program. That program is contained in legislative proposals that are generally similar to those included in S. 1046, the Kennedy-Morse bill. We support—and we urge the prompt enactment of—the provisions of this bill, not only those that would extend the Act's coverage to employees of retail enterprises whose sales amount to \$500,000 or more annually and to workers in other presently excluded industries, but also those provisions that would raise the minimum wage for employees in low-wage industries to at least \$1.25 an hour. Both of these objectives are of great importance to the well-being of the workers of this country and to the economic health and stability of the Nation.

Mr. Chairman, we are especially glad to see that the legislation we support is jointly sponsored by yourself and Senator Morse. We are aware of the parliamentary skill and devotion both of you have shown in other legislative battles. We are glad, indeed, to see you working together on behalf of this very necessary legislation. It gives us hope that this year our campaign for justice for retail and other workers will at last be successful.

If S. 1046 is enacted, about 4,150,000 of these workers would be brought under the protection of the Act. The Department of Labor has estimated that there are some 6,820,000 wage and salary workers in retail trade who are presently excluded from the protection of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Thus, this bill does not cover all, but only some, retail workers. Only the employees of the larger retail enterprises, such as the giant chain, department, variety and other retail enterprises having annual gross sales of not less than \$500,000 or doing business with industrial or commercial, as distinguished from domestic, consumers to the extent of at least \$50,000 annually, would be brought under the protection of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Retail workers who are employed by small retail enterprises and the so-called "mom and pop" stores—which are retail stores in which the only employees are the owner of the enterprise and the parents, spouse, or children of the owner—would continue to be excluded from the Act by specific provisions incorporated in the bill. While this is a defect in the bill from the standpoint of the more than 3,670,000 retail workers employed in these small stores, who are as much entitled to the protection of the Act as any other workers on the basis of considerations of economic need and justice, we are prepared to accept the limitations

imposed by the bill on the basis of satisfying the needs of the majority of retail employees.

The retail workers who would benefit from the enactment of S. 1046 comprise one of the largest groups of low-paid workers in our economy. The Department of Labor October 1956 study (which is the latest available) indicated that about 611,000 retail employees, or about 10 percent of the total, had earnings of less than \$.75 an hour, and that 1,588,000, or 26 percent of the total, had earnings of less than \$1.00 an hour. The same study indicated that about 3,044,000 retail workers, or 50 percent of the total, were then earning less than \$1.25 an hour.

## Biggest Firms Pay Lowest Wages

But even the figures I have just enumerated do not tell the whole story of the need of retail workers for protection under the Fair Labor Standards Act. The largest number of and percentage of low-wage workers are found in variety, drug and proprietary, grocery, department, and apparel and accessories stores. The 1956 survey showed that these retail enterprises, which include most of the giant distribution systems, including the great chain retail networks, employed 3,333,000, or more than half, of all retail employees.

We also find that those stores which pay the lowest wages use the greatest number of part-time employees. Thus, in October 1956, we find that 39% of the workers in variety stores and drug and proprietary stores worked part-time. Thirty-one percent of those in food stores and in apparel and accessory stores worked part-time, and 20% of all department store workers were part-time employees. On the other hand, we find that in the industries which paid a little more money, many employees were compelled to work more than 40 hours a week without overtime pay. So that in this study we find that 40% of the workers employed by building materials and farm equipment dealers, and 48% of those employed by automotive dealers and gasoline stations, and more than 30% of those employed by furniture, home furnishings and appliance stores worked 48 hours or more per week with no overtime pay. Thus, we find that it is the workers in the lower paying stores who most need the protection of coverage under the minimum wage section of the Fair Labor Standards Act, and it is the workers in the other sections of the retail industry who are in special need of the protection the Act affords against long hours of work without overtime pay.

Mr. Chairman, there are three principal arguments which opponents of extension of coverage to retail workers make in support of their position.

The first of these arguments is that retailing is not an interstate industry and is not, therefore, a proper subject of regulation by Congress. This argument con-

(Continued on Page 11)





Mary Lovejoy of Bessemer, Ala., a member of Local 615 employed at big S. H. Kress store in that city, tells of being hired there at 60 cents an hour. With her is Pres. Max Greenberg.



First-hand testimony on need for coverage under the minimum wage law is presented by Martha Gregory, of Local 357, Anderson, Ind. She works at Hill's Dept. Store, earns 80 cents an hour.

# To Broaden U. S. Wage Law

(Continued from Page 10)

tends that the regulation of minimum wages and maximum hours of retail workers should be left to the States.

The fact is that the States have had more than 20 years since 1938 when the Fair Labor Standards Act was passed in which to enact and put into effect minimum wage and maximum hours regulations applicable to retail workers. Yet with the exception of a few States, the States have completely failed to do so. Most retail workers are still not covered by any effective minimum wage or maximum hours regulation. It is only fair to point out that this is due in no small degree to the fact that the same people who argue that minimum wage and maximum hours regulation in retailing is a State, not a Federal function, also bitterly oppose State legislation.

Of course, the workers who are represented by our union, and by other unions in the retail field, are protected to a substantial extent by the standards written into the collective bargaining agreement under which they are employed. But it is obvious, Mr. Chairman, that our efforts to write decent standards into our contracts are severely handicapped by the fact that retail workers generally have no legal minimum wage or maximum hours protection and consequently receive lower wages than any other workers in our economy.

It is also argued that application of minimum wage and maximum hours standards in retail enterprises will subject these enterprises to undue hardships and will result in loss of jobs for retail workers and higher prices for consumers. These arguments are equally without foundation.

## Big Chains Can Absorb Costs

Can anyone seriously believe, Mr. Chairman, that it would be an undue hardship for concerns like F. W. Woolworth Co., J. J. Newberry Co., J. C. Penney Co., Sears, Roebuck and Company, Montgomery Ward, Safeway Stores, Lerner Stores Corporation, Walgreen Company, R. H. Macy Company, etc., to be compelled by law to meet decent minimum wage and maximum hours standards? I do not think so.

It has already been shown that application of the minimum wage to workers in the retail industry should have hardly any impact on the prices of goods sold in retail stores. In 1956, a special staff study prepared for this Subcommittee by Dr. Fred H. Blum of the University of Minnesota, estimated that no more than one-half of one percent increase in selling prices would absorb the full amount of the increased cost of doing business in the retail industry as a whole if this industry is brought under the minimum wage. An even smaller impact can be expected today as a result of today's generally higher wage levels and increased production. Certainly, the giant enterprises that dominate the retail distribution industry ought to be able to adjust without any undue hardship or dislocation of employment to an increase in costs that, measured in

terms of sales, may amount to less than one-half of one percent.

Such an increase cannot, I submit, be regarded as inflationary by any reasonable standard. The small increase in costs that would result from enacting S. 1046 will mean greater purchasing power in the pay checks of nearly 2,000,000 low-paid retail workers.

## "I Support Myself on \$34 a Week"

My name is Mary Lovejoy. I work for the S.H. Kress Company in Bessemer, Alabama. I live in a two-room apartment and pay \$35 a month rent. I have been working for the S.H. Kress Company for about two years. When I went to work for the company, I was hired at 60c an hour. About a year ago the union organized the store and got us a contract. My wages went to 75c an hour. I work 40 hours a week, 5 days. The company scheduled us depending on how busy the store was. When I worked less hours, I got less pay. I get two rest periods a day, 15 minutes in the morning and 15 minutes in the afternoon. Before the union, we never got a rest period.

Under the union contract, the hiring rate is 70c an hour. After working 1040 hours we get an automatic 5c an hour increase. After working 2080 hours, we get another 5c an hour increase. My weekly earnings average about \$34.00. \$4.79 is withheld so I take home about \$29.00 a week. I live by myself and I support myself. With the \$29.00 a week I have to pay rent, buy clothes, food and pay doctor and dentist bills. I don't have to tell you that it's pretty hard to make ends meet.

## "90c an Hour for a Top Salesgirl"

My name is Martha Gregory. I live in Alexandria, Indiana, and I work for Hills Department Store, Anderson, Indiana. I have been working for Hills Department Store for three years. Under our union agreement, I now receive 90c an hour plus commission. I am given a sales quota each month. If I sell more than my quota I get 2% commission on all sales above my quota. But the quota is so high that the only time I ever earned any extra money was during the Christmas holiday season when I earned \$15 extra for the month of December. My employer tells me I am one of the most efficient sales people in the store. I am in charge of selling sportswear which is a big department right on the main floor. Most other girls find it completely impossible to make any extra money under the commission arrangements.

I live with my husband who works for Delco-Remy Company. I must work to help make ends meet. Two of my children are married but I still have two at home to support. I also had to raise three nephews and one niece.

Most of the women who work in our store are widow

Mr. Chairman, we reject the idea that the Nation can be spared the dangers of inflation only at the expense of inadequate purchasing power in the hands of the lowest-paid of our citizens. It is not inflationary to make sure that people have enough income to enable them to achieve a "minimum standard of living necessary for health, efficiency, and general well-being."

Some of my co-workers are even worse off than I am. One of them is a widow with 7 children. The oldest child is 15. She earns 85c an hour and is the sole support of her family. Another has 4 children and an old mother that she supports. She earns the same amount—85c an hour. There are many more women who support themselves and their children on these wages.

The people who work with me asked me to tell you that if the minimum wage law is extended to cover us, it will do a lot of good. We would be able to give our children better food and decent clothes. Things like fresh eggs, milk, a new pair of shoes would be possible. On our present salary, many of us can't afford to eat meat more than once a week.

We have made a lot of progress since we have a union contract and as bad as our situation is, it is a lot worse for many of my friends who are working in non-union stores in and around Bessemer. I know many people who must work for wages as low as 60 and 65 cents an hour. Many of these women are the sole support of their families. All of us are looking forward to this law being passed because we know it's the only way we can get the help we need.

ladies who must make their own way. The average pay in the store is \$36 a week, less deductions. When business is slow, the company has the right to cut us to 30 hours a week, which means we earn so much less money. Anderson, Indiana, is an industrial city and living costs are very high. When I shopped at the super market last week, I paid 74c for a dozen eggs. I paid 69c a pound for the cheapest hamburger. I paid 22c for a loaf of bread.

I live 4½ miles outside of town. I must ride the bus which costs me 45c each way. Rents in Anderson are extremely high because there is a shortage of apartments. Most of the women in the store must pay two weeks salary for a month's rent.

We find it very hard to understand why people who shop in our store, who work in industry, who live alongside of us and have the same expenses that we have, earn at least a dollar an hour, and yet we must work for less. We feel that the minimum wage law ought to be extended to cover retail employees. This would do so much good for people who really need it. I hope we can count on you to pass this law this year.



# Three Magic Words

By JANE GOODSELL

By the simple utterance of three little words, I can change the personalities of my three daughters. It works like magic and, although I use it nearly every day, it never loses its effectiveness.

Take Molly, for instance. She's three-and-a-half, and she acts it. When she isn't demanding that I read her a story or give her a cookie or find her Tiny Tears doll's other shoe, she is jumping up and down on the sofa or skinning her knee or mashing crayon into the carpet.



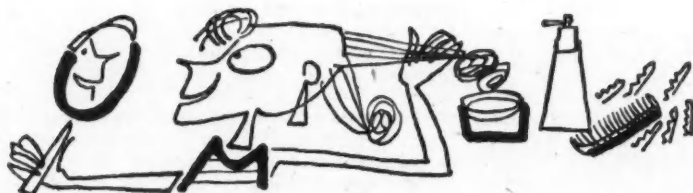
That's what Molly is like until I pronounce those three little words and, instantly, she is transformed into a sweet, winsome, demure little girl who sits quietly beside me and occasionally whispers, "Mommy, I love you."

It is as though Dennis the Menace had turned into Pollyanna before my very eyes.

These same words have a different but no less dramatic effect on her two older sisters.



Katie, who is ten, has spent the past two hours lolling in front of the television set, encircling herself with an ever-increasing accumulation of apple cores, banana skins, cookie crumbs and crusts from peanut butter sandwiches. With my pronouncement, she leaps to her feet, brisk, alert and bustling with activity. After spending two hours doing absolutely nothing, she is suddenly fired with ambition. She must draw a map of Asia, polish her shoes, wash her hair and make three very important telephone calls. With my magic words, I have transformed Step'n Fetchit into a dynamo of energy.



It works on Ann, too. She's fourteen. I can change her from a giddy, frivolous butterfly into an intellectual in one second flat. Two minutes ago she was standing in front of the mirror, trying out hair styles and wondering how she'd look in a pageboy. The hour and a half before that she had spent lying on the floor talking to—or about—boys on the telephone.

I speak, and suddenly she switches roles. She becomes a serious-minded student whose only interest in life is getting A's on her report card. She must brush up on her Latin subjunctive, she must re-copy her notes on the Industrial Revolution, and she earnestly seeks my opinion of the underlying theme in "Les Miserables."

Wonderful, isn't it? And so simple, really. All I have to say is, "It's your bedtime."

—Record Drawings by Marjorie Glaubach

# The Art of Makeup



By MAIA RODMAN

A naturally pretty look is the one most American women want and can achieve with the help of certain tricks. You are way ahead to begin with if you have a good skin to work on. Always remove make-up completely. If your skin is dry, use ordinary baby oil instead of soap and water to do the cleaning job. (Expensive creams and special cleansers have nothing over ordinary oil.)

Light foundation is used to bring out an area and make it more prominent. Darker foundation colors are for toning down the features we want to deemphasize.

## Hints from Models, Actresses

If you are not satisfied with what you have been doing to your face, try the following hints that many models and actresses recommend:

Start by putting on foundation in tiny dots, and use both hands to spread smoothly and evenly. To cover under-eye shadows use the lightest foundation tone, blending it in well. Faint streaks or dark foundation down each side of the nose close in and highlight the line of the bridge, making a wide nose less noticeable. If you use rouge, smile when applying it in order to put the color on the highest part of the cheek. Blend carefully and don't overdo it. Pressed powder clings and covers well; apply with a fresh piece of cotton, patting it over the foundation. (Use a lighter shade for daytime and a darker one for the evening).

Wet slightly and brush the eyebrows before applying eye make-up. To apply

eye-shadow use a soft sable-tip brush. (An artist's no. 1 brush is cheapest and has a convenient long handle.) Start the shadow in the middle of the lid, almost on the lashes, and fan outward to the tip of the eyelid. Resting both elbows firmly on the table, line the eyes by pulling eyelid taut, laying pencil against lid and drawing an unbroken line. For brows, use a soft pencil; follow the natural line, exaggerating the arch slightly. Rest your pinky against your cheek for firm support while you make the light featherlike strokes. Looking down into a mirror held right under the chin, apply mascara. Coat entire lash from root to tip. Use a big brush moistened in warm water.

Keeping elbows on the table, put pinky against the chin to act as a pivot when lining lips. Use a soft sable-tip brush but be sure your lips are dry. (Powdering them tends to keep the lipstick on longer.) Follow the natural lip line, taking care not to extend the line too far at the corners. Use a dark shade to outline lips and fill in lip outline with a lighter shade. Blot lips on fresh tissue, but don't blot or wash your lip brush; oils in the lip color will keep it soft.

## Dyeing Is Easy!

Gone are the days when women used to say "I'd rather die than dye my hair!" Today many women in this country color their hair and find it almost as natural and simple to do as putting on lipstick.

Color rinses are designed to give slight color changes and add highlights. Color is deposited on the outside of the hair shaft and will usually wash out in your next shampoo.

Permanent hair coloring preparations, however, deposit color inside the hair shaft and will give you more coverage and longer-lasting results. Most of them include a conditioner, some combine a bleaching and coloring action, some a shampoo which cleanses while coloring. They offer a wide choice of color changes and will not wash out. Retouching is necessary depending on rate of new hair growth (four to seven weeks).

It is a good idea to begin with a color rinse before dyeing. Most of the companies putting out hair colorings have the same shades in rinses and in permanent hair colorings.

Bleaches and lighteners lighten hair by removing natural pigment and brighten dull, drab tones of blond or brown hair. They often contain conditioners, will wash out and need to be re-applied only as new hair grows in.

If you wish to brighten or highlight, select a rinse one or two shades lighter than your own hair; to darken, one or two tones deeper. To cover gray hair use a shade that matches the rest of your hair or one slightly deeper. For permanent coloring, go to a reliable hairdresser for the first application. Generally, colorings one or two shades lighter than your own hair will insure a more natural-looking job.

A temporary rinse in platinum, smoky or blue-gray shade will help tone down the yellow tinges in white or gray hair. To cover small areas of gray hair or touch up new growth you have the choice of crayons, pencils or cake preparations. Some are used dry, others must be moistened with water. There are also pomade-type preparations tinted to match hair shades or in tones to subdue yellow streaks in white or gray.



# DOWN TO EARTH ADVICE ON FAMILY INSURANCE

By **SIDNEY MARGOLIUS**  
Consumer Expert for The Record

Many readers of The Record seek information on insurance questions which puzzle their families. They want facts on:

- Family plan of life insurance.
- Insurance for education.
- Income for retirement years.
- Sickness insurance.

**Family Plan:** Chief purpose of life insurance is to insure the family's income in case its breadwinner dies. Unfortunately, many wage-earners carry numerous small policies on the wife and kids, but relatively little insurance on themselves. These little policies are paid for weekly or monthly, but actually are expensive for the small insurance they provide. They are generally known as "burial" insurance.

The fallacy is that most families nowadays can manage burial costs, but can't manage if the breadwinner dies. In this old-fashioned way of spreading insurance around the family, when a breadwinner dies his widow often is left with a lot of policies to keep up, but no income.

If a family does feel it needs insurance on the wife and children, a new type of policy called the "family plan" will insure all members under the one policy at not much more than the cost of insuring Papa alone.

For example, for a little over \$100 a year net cost (after dividends), a family policy provides \$4,000 of straight-life insurance on a father of 35, \$1,230 of term insurance on a mother of 31, and \$1,000 of term insurance on each child under 21. Compare this with the cost of separate policies you may now be carrying on various family members. The family policy is especially good for large families since the cost is the same no matter how many children there are, and each new baby becomes covered at no increase in premium. We've heard of one family with 11 children covered by a family policy at no more cost than with only one child.

## Term Insurance is Cheaper

But even the new family policy, while less costly than individual policies, has fallacies. Papa could buy \$4,000 of term insurance, which pays on death but has no cash value, for as little as \$25 a year, or even less under a group-insurance plan sponsored by his union.

**Education Insurance:** "Education" policies are endowment policies under another name, and are really not a good way to save for education. For example, an "education" or endowment policy for a child of eight, which will pay \$1,000 at age 18, will have a net cost of about \$98 a year. The same \$98 deposited for a child each year in a credit union or other compound-



interest savings account paying 3½ per cent interest, will total \$1,190 at the end of ten years.

In general, endowment policies are a poor investment unless you feel you need this kind of compulsion to make you save. But if a father does take out an education or endowment policy for a child, it is wise to have an "endorsement" added so that if he dies or becomes seriously disabled, it won't be necessary to pay any further premiums, and the child will collect the money when the policy matures. A father of 35, for example, can have such an endorsement added for about \$4.50 a year.

**Retirement Income Policies:** These are really "annuities" and are the exact opposite of life insurance, for annuities pay off if you live. For example, for every \$1,000 you pay the insurance company, it agrees to pay you and your wife \$5.50 a month while both of you live, and then \$3.65 to the survivor for the rest of his or her life.

Your basic "retirement" policy or annuity

is your Social Security. A man and his wife retiring in the near future would get about \$175 a month in Social Security benefits, assuming he had been earning average wages. This would buy only a bare living. So unless he had other income or a paid-up dwelling or a supplementary pension from his employer, an annuity may be desirable, to make sure a retired person doesn't outlive his savings.

As you see, annuities aren't cheap. You'd have to pay \$5,000 for a joint and two-thirds annuity, paying \$27.50 a month to the couple and two-thirds of that amount to the survivor. Like life insurance, annuities often cost 10-15 per cent less if bought on a group basis. Also, if you already have a straight-life or whole-life insurance policy, you can convert it to an annuity when you retire. This is often cheaper than taking the cash value and buying an annuity.

**Sickness Insurance:** This department does not recommend that an individual buy commercial hospital and surgical insurance because of the high costs and limited benefits. A survey by the Social Security Administration found that commercial companies paid out only 48 cents of every dollar in benefits. The other 52 cents went for selling and administration costs and profits. In contrast, non-profit group health plans sponsored by unions, cooperatives and Blue Cross and Blue Shield, paid out 87 to 95 cents in benefits, and used only 5 to 13 cents for administration and promotion expenses. These, therefore, are the only plans that give you any worthwhile insurance.

The present trend of commercial companies is to feature "major medical" or "catastrophe" insurance. The cost is cheaper, since only the biggest medical bills are covered, and these usually only up to 75-80 per cent of the amount. You pay the balance, and, of course, pay for all small medical expenses. This is something like deductible auto insurance.

A major-medical policy for a couple aged 35 with two children, which would pay medical bills over \$500 and up to \$10,000, costs anywhere from \$80 to \$110 a year, depending on the company and other features of the policy.

But while the cost is less than that of full medical insurance, the danger is that people will tend to avoid the medical attention they need for minor illnesses and also the preventive medical care needed to make sure small ills don't become big ones.

If you do buy sickness insurance, note that the type which reimburses you for medical expense is tax deductible but the kind which compensates you for loss of earnings is not.

## Takes Two to Tango — and to Feed Family Too

Almost half the families in the United States find it necessary to have two or more wage earners if they are to have an income of more than \$4,500 a year, or about \$87 a week. That is a commentary on how the American high standard of living is maintained.

Latest statistics from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare provide striking information on the economic status of American families. Here are some of the highlights:

The median money income of families in 1957—that is half of the country's families earned more and half less—was \$4,970.

There were 2,720,000 families that had no direct earnings but lived on social security or other types of income. Their average was \$1,460 for the year.

The largest group of wage and salary families—21,130,000—had only one earner in the family, and their average was \$4,500 a year, or about \$87 a week.

Next came 15,320,000 families with two earners. Their average was \$5,780 a year.

And, finally, there were 4,400,000 families with three or more earners who had the top average, \$7,040 a year.

Thus there were 19,760,000 families out of a total of 40,960,000 who found it necessary to have two or more earners in order to top the \$4,500 a year or \$85 a week mark.

Age and sex also played an important part in the earnings picture.

If the head of the family was under 25 years of age, the average annual earnings were \$3,890 while if the head was over 65, earnings dropped to \$2,490. The most productive years were between

35 and 54 with the average annual earnings in this bracket reaching \$5,560.

Sex also was important. Thus, if the family was headed by a man, average income reached \$4,830 a year. If his wife also worked the average jumped to \$6,140 a year. On the other hand, if the family was headed by a woman, average earnings plunged to \$2,760 a year.

HEW reported that the average family was financially better off today than ten or twenty years ago. In 1944, for example, median income for all families in the United States was \$2,530 a year. By 1957 it was almost double, although meanwhile the number of earners per family had gone up sharply, too.

In any event, HEW points out that 97 percent of all married couples today maintain their own households as compared with only 93 per cent in 1940, an indication of improved financial position.



## Steelworkers, Industry Open Hard Bargaining

NEW YORK CITY—The Steelworkers Union and the basic steel industry have settled down to hard core bargaining with four-man teams concentrating on working out a new contract before the present agreement expires at midnight on June 30.

The union, seeking to assure higher purchasing power and continued jobs for its 500,000 members in the industry—and to spread employment to an estimated 50,000 now laid off—is asking higher wages, shorter hours, greater job security, better insurance and pension protection, higher supplementary unemployment benefits and other contract improvements.

The only proposal the employers have announced thus far is for a one-year extension of the present contract as a weapon against "inflation."

They are meeting in the same four-room suite on the 12th floor of the Roosevelt Hotel where they bargained for weeks before the five-week strike in 1956.

The union is represented by Pres. David J. McDonald, Sec.-Treas. I. W. Abel, Vice-Pres. Howard R. Hague and Gen. Counsel Arthur J. Goldberg.

Acting for the employers are R. Conrad Cooper, executive vice president of the U. S. Steel Corp., the industry's top spokesman; R. Heath Larry, U. S. Steel administrative vice president; John Morse, counsel for the Bethlehem Steel Co., and H. C. Lumb, the Republic Steel Corp.'s general counsel.

Before the four-man sessions began, McDonald said the union would propose as the first item for discussion steps that might be taken toward employment security.

In closing the first week of bargaining, during which union and management were represented by their "all teams," he reiterated that the USWA wants "a fair contract with improvements earned and justified by the employees' productivity and in the industry's profits." New automated machinery and other technical improvements, plus the increasing skill of workers, have enabled the industry to maintain production with far fewer employees.

## Strike Benefits Taxable?

WASHINGTON (PAI)—Pending a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, workers who have paid Federal income taxes on strike benefits should promptly file claims for refunds.

In general, the Internal Revenue Service has noted, taxpayers have three years from the filing date of their returns in which to file a timely claim for refund, but action should not be delayed.

IRS also recommended that workers who already have filed such claims and who have received notice of disallowance, should ask their IRS district director to enter into an agreement to extend the two-year period allowed by law for filing suit for refund in such cases.

IRS announced last March that the Supreme Court would be asked to review a recent decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in the case of Allen Kaiser v. United States. The Appeals Court held in this case that strike benefit payments made to the taxpayer by a labor union were not subject to tax, IRS said.

Audit actions on cases involving this question have been suspended pending decision of the Supreme Court in the Kaiser case, IRS said.



**REUTHER IN BERLIN:** Auto Workers President Walter P. Reuther on May Day rallies half million West Berliners to cause of freedom in the Platz der Republik. He spoke in German as representative of the World Free Labor Organization and got tremendous hand.

## 4-Year 'Battle of Beach' Ends as Miami Hotels Sign

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (PAI)—The 4-year campaign to "paste the union label" on Miami Beach ended today with the announcement here that the Hotel Saxony, where the battle of the beach began in April 1955, has signed a union contract.

The announcement came from Ed S. Miller, president of the Hotel Employees Union, at its international headquarters in Cincinnati.

The union has spent "more than \$2,000,000," Miller said, in strike relief and litigation. Two U. S. Supreme Court decisions in November 1958 and January 1959 set the stage for the recent recognition of the union by a number of "reluctant" hotel owners, Miller explained.

Ten days ago, Morris Lansburgh, head of a group controlling six ocean front hotels, gave up the fight, Miller said. Four of these six hotels were among the twenty-two picketed in 1955. In every case picket lines were enjoined by the Florida courts.

Today George Sax, who controls the Saxony here where the first picket line appeared on the morning of April 13, 1955, decided to join the growing list of operators under union agreement.

Miller said Local 255 in Miami Beach now has contracts governing 46 Dade County hotels and motels. All but three are on the ocean. The union has grown to 6,000 members.

The Supreme Court in the first Miami case ruled that the NLRB may not refuse hotel cases as it had since 1935. In January the court went on to dissolve the four-year old injunctions and restore the union's freedom to picket. These decisions, Miller said, triggered the signing of the holdouts.

## Gratified at Jobless Drop, Meany Warns 5.3% High

WASHINGTON (PAI)—In the midst of Administration hosannahs that unemployment had dropped about 735,000 over the month, AFL-CIO President George Meany declared that the country could not afford to be complacent in view of the 5.3 percent of joblessness that still exists.

"We are pleased with the continued improvement in the employment picture," Meany said. "The drop in unemployment is a healthy sign. We hope the improvement is solidly based and does not grow out of the present rush to build steel inventories in anticipation of a possible strike."

"Even if it is solidly based, America cannot lose sight of the fact that 5.3 percent of the work force is unemployed and that 3,627,000 Americans still do not have jobs."

"We cannot afford to relax our efforts to achieve full employment and full production and that will not take place until there is some long over-due Government action."

In their combined report, the Departments of Labor and Commerce said that the drop in unemployment from a 5.8 percent rate to 5.3 and an increase in total employment of about 1,200,000 "were about double the average seasonal improvement for this time of year."

The improvement was attributed to an unusually large pickup in construction and "brisk hiring" in manufacturing, plus the usual spring expansion of farming activities.

The report further said that the rate of unemployment was "about two thirds of the way back to pre-recession levels."

Employment in manufacturing rose by 30,000 over the month to 16 million. During April there were 900,000 more factory jobs than a year ago. Nevertheless, factory employment was still 800,000 lower than it was in April 1957, the last "normal" year.

Both the factory work week and earnings increased over the month with the manufacturing workweek going to 40.3 hours, two hours greater than a year ago. Average weekly earnings reached a record of \$89.87, up 63 cents over the month.

## Touring Scabs Exposed

NEW YORK CITY—Existence of a touring "road company" of professional strikebreakers in the newspaper industry has been revealed here at a hearing before a special state investigating committee.

At earlier hearings, testimony was heard as to the recruitment of strikebreakers for the eight-newspaper Macy chain in Westchester County, N.Y., where the Typographical Union has been conducting a strike for more than a year and a half.

The most recent hearing heard witnesses tell of a cadre of about a dozen printers, under the command of Bloor Schleppey, a midwest lawyer, who flew around the country to take the jobs of striking union printers.

Among the towns the Schleppey road company moved into in order to break legitimate union strikes were Zanesville, O.; Bristol, Levittown and Pottsville, Pa.; Ypsilanti, Mich.; Lockport and Glen Cove, N.Y.; Waukegan, Ill., and Grand Junction, Colo.—and eventually Westchester County.

## Business Brass Nets Juicy Profits on Stock Options

WASHINGTON (PAI)—Today, when American workers seek a few cents more on the hour, shrill cries of inflation are raised by corporation officials, by the nation's press, and by officials of the Administration.

Yet, nothing is being said about the juicy bonanzas officials of some of these very same corporations are making through their own questionable manipulations.

The story came out recently in U.S. News & World Report which declared:

"At least when other investors are paying record prices for stocks, these (corporation) executives are getting bargains. They are buying large blocks of stock in their own firms at prices set several years ago, when stock prices generally were much lower. In some cases, the 'insiders' are paying one-half or one-third of what stocks are worth on the open market."

"Thanks to the bull market stock options are proving a windfall for thousands of management men, big

and small. A whole new wave of plans is being promulgated in the hopes that stocks will go still higher, so that today's prices, taken as the basis for new operations, will be bargain prices a year or two from now."

This gimmick means that a company executive has some of the advantages owning stock without the usual risks until he actually buys. The price he pays for the stock is fixed from the time the option is granted until the stock is purchased.

He can wait until the value of the stock rises to a sufficient point and then he can buy with his built-in profit with no risk at the expense of the owners of the company. It's an out-and-out windfall.

Suppose he buys stock from his company worth \$100,000 at the original price of \$50,000. He makes an automatic \$50,000 profit.

In most cases companies will set the option price at 95 percent of the prevailing price. This means under our tax laws that although the value of the stock rises

two or three or five times its original value, it does not increase the owner's taxable income.

In any case, if he holds the stock for more than six months he applies the capital gains rate which means he is taxed on only 25 percent of the profit.

This stands in pretty sharp contrast to a wage earner who is denied such benefits and sees heavy withholdings taken out of his pay check.

U.S. News cites the case of the one vice-president who now holds 30,000 shares of stock for which he paid \$630,000. The value on today's market is \$2 million. If he sells his holdings four months from now and if the market price of the stock does not change in the meantime, he will have a profit of more than \$1 million after taxes.

Some of the major companies which have gone in for this stock option plan are American Can, Carrier Corp., Chrysler, Douglas Aircraft, Gillette, Republic Aviation, Revlon, Sinclair Oil, U.S. Gypsum and Westinghouse.



# lighter side of the record

## Candid Comment

The honeymoon isn't over until the bride who thought she was mad about you finds out she's just mad at you.

## Dumb Luck

The prodigal son was the subject of the catechism lesson, and Sister was dwelling on the character of the elder brother.

"But amidst all the enjoyment," said Sister, "there was one to whom the preparation of the feast brought no joy; to whom the prodigal's return gave no happiness, only bitterness; one who did not approve of the feast and who had no wish to attend it. Now who can tell me who this was?"

Silence for several moments, then a hand was raised and a small sympathetic voice said, "Please, Sister, it was the fatted calf."

## Baleful Offering

"The boss just offered me an interest in the business," the young clerk confided to the pretty steno.

"He did?" she asked in surprise.

"Yeah," the young woman replied reflectively. "He said if I didn't take an interest in the business pretty soon he'd fire me."

## Spooks!

A man missed the last bus from town and tried to hitch a ride by signaling several passing cars. Three passed without stopping, but the fourth was going slowly, and, as he approached, stopped whereupon he entered, very gladly. But, to his horror, no one was within driving the car which moved slowly on and finally came to a complete halt in front of a cemetery. The neighboring church clock struck midnight at this moment, slowly and ponderously, and the young man, now thoroughly unnerved, leaped from the car and ran away. He looked back for an instant and noticed a man apparently trying to enter the car. He cried out: "Don't go into that car, there's something terribly wrong with it!"

To which the other replied, fervently: "You're telling me? Why, I've been pushing it all the way from town!"

## Funny Business

The young man had just proposed but the young lady, alas, had turned him down.

"If you don't marry me," he declared fervently in a bid for sympathy, "I'll blow my brains out."

The young lady laughed.

"H'm," was her calm response, "that would be a joke on father. He doesn't think you have any."

## Leather Beaten

Unlike some parents, I would never Bronze Baby's outgrown shoes. However, I'd like to metallize somehow. The shoes my kids are wearing now, Not out of sentiment—that's past—But hoping shoes of bronze would last.

## Daffynition

Co-educational college: Match factory.

## Candid Comments

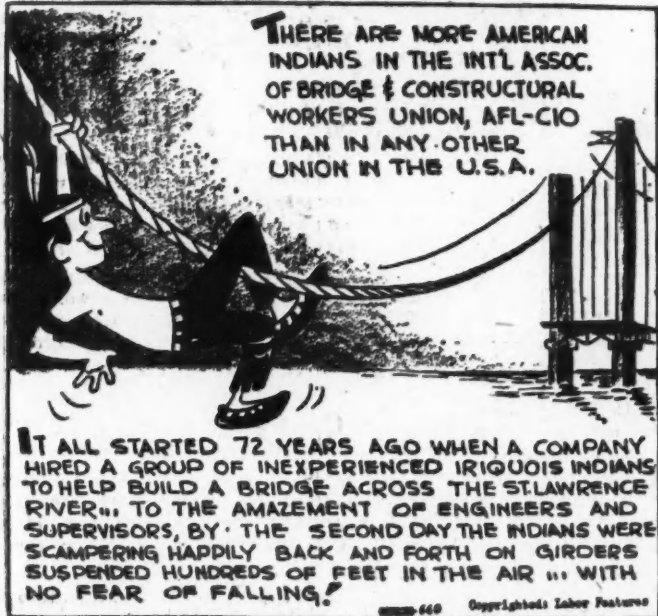
One of the marvels of science is the way a man's troublesome appendix transforms, step by step, into a beautiful, new mink coat on the surgeon's wife.

The greatest invention since Creation, according to some mothers, is not the wheel but the nursery school.

At last we have a generation of young husbands who don't ask for meals like Mother used to make. Enough was enough.

A TV dinner is any dinner served by a woman who was watching TV when she was supposed to be watching dinner.

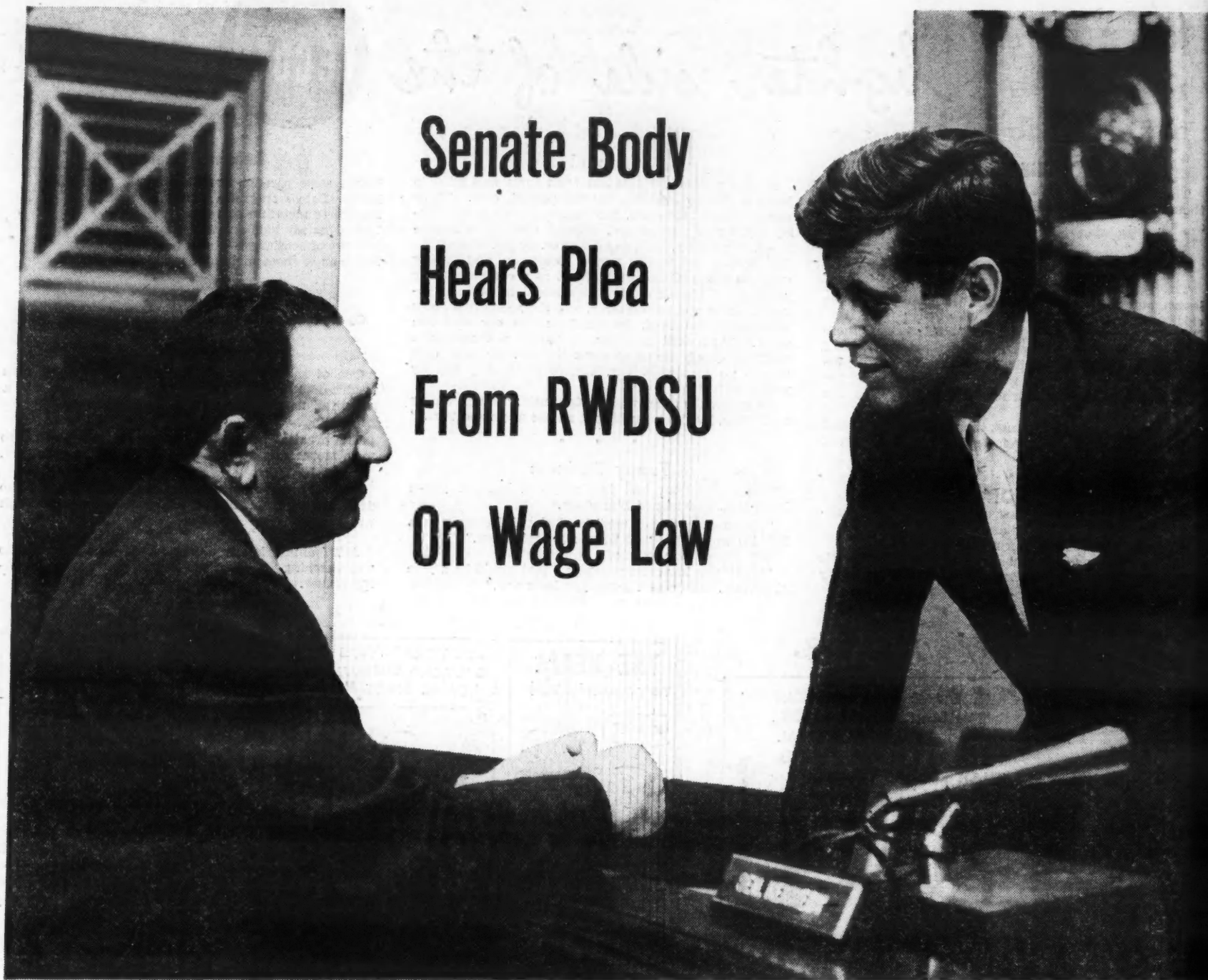
## LABOR ODDITIES



**ON HER TOES:** We don't know why the photographer picked these props for posing Vera Ellen. As you can see, hers are all right.







## Senate Body Hears Plea From RWDSU On Wage Law

RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg, left, renews old acquaintance with Sen. John F. Kennedy (Dem. Mass.), chairman of Senate Labor Subcommittee, at May 7 hearing on minimum wage law.

**T**HE crucial stage of this year's campaign to win long-sought improvements in the U.S. minimum wage law got under way on Thursday, May 7, when the Senate Labor Subcommittee opened hearings on proposed amendments which would broaden coverage and boost the minimum to \$1.25 an hour.

The hearings opened with a general presentation on behalf of the entire labor movement by AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany, which was buttressed by statistics presented by AFL-CIO Research Dir. Stanley Ruttenberg. The federation spokesmen were followed by RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg, first of the International union leaders to testify.

The labor leaders spoke in support of the Kennedy-Morse-Roosevelt bill, introduced in the Senate as S. 1046, which would extend coverage under the federal wage-hour law to some 7½ million additional workers of the 20 million who are not now covered.

In answering questions from Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), Meany challenged the theory that a minimum wage should turn on productivity.

Department store-owner Goldwater thought a higher minimum would undermine incentive and lead to where "a poor salesman is going to be paid just as much as a good salesman." Meany retorted:

"If a business, for any reason at all, must base its existence on pay-

ing a subminimum wage, it has no business to exist."

Pres. Greenberg was accompanied at the hearing by 'Record' Editor Max Steinbock and RWDSU Legislative Rep. Kenneth A. Melklejohn. His testimony, which is reprinted on Pages 9 and 10 of this issue, dealt with the need of retail workers for coverage under the law. He answered point-by-point the arguments advanced by the retail industry in their efforts to evade coverage.

Pres. Greenberg asked if anyone seriously believed it would be "an undue hardship" for firms like Woolworth, J. J. Newberry, J. C. Penny, Montgomery Ward, Safeway, Lerner Stores, Walgreen, Macy's or Sears Roebuck to meet federal wage-hour standards.

He pointed out that union efforts to write decent standards into contracts are "severely handicapped" by the fact that retail workers generally have no minimum wage floor or ceiling on hours.

Greenberg's testimony was backed up by the personal statements of two rank-and-file union members, Mary Lovejoy of Bessemer, Ala., and Martha Gregory of Anderson, Ind. After hearing their testimony on what it means to live on wages of 85 and 90 cents an hour, Sen. Kennedy, who is presiding over the hearings, complimented the RWDSU on its presentation, citing particularly the strong impression made by the two women's statements. See Page 11 for text of their statements.